

# Spring 2025 Courses

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

# Explore Learn Connect



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# Encore Learning Spring 2025 Course Offerings

CATEGORY	COURSE # AND NAME	INSTRUCTOR	DAY	DATE	TIME	SITE
<b>Fine Arts, Theater &amp; Music</b>	1002 – Theater Appreciation	Ohlandt	W	3/19 – 5/7	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	FCC
	1052 – Ballet: Seeing More, Enjoying More	Bush	W	3/5 – 5/7	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	1053 – Meeting the Bible Musically	Ruth	M	3/17 – 4/7	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Virtual
	1054 – Saddle Up! The Horse in Art -CANCELLED					
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	2024 – Planning For Changes	Wiley	TH	4/3 – 5/8	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	2025 – Happiness in Our Encore Years	Joyce / Arciero	F	3/14 – 4/4	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Hybrid
<b>History</b>	3003 – Arlington History	VanNewkirk	TH	3/27 – 5/15	3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Various
	3077 – World War I, Western Culture & Faith	O'Connor	T	3/4 – 5/6	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	3078 – Civil War and Reconstruction	Gartman	TH	3/6 – 5/1	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	3079 – History of Journalism in the US	Self	W	4/9 – 5/14	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Virtual
	3080 – Arlington Metro-CANCELLED					
	3081 – Arlington: Enslavement to Jim Crow	Multiple	T	4/15 – 5/13	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Various
	3082 – Civil War in Washington and Beyond	Anbinder	W	3/5 – 5/7	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Hybrid
	3083 – Latin American Populism	Albro	M	3/3 – 4/7	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Hybrid
<b>Law, Politics &amp; Public Affairs</b>	3084 – Renaissance in Rome	Wukitsch	M	3/3 – 5/12	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Virtual
	4004 – Global Hot Spots	Multiple	TH	3/6 – 4/3	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Virtual
	4046 – Intelligence Community 101	Wagner	TH	3/27 – 5/1	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	GMU
	4047 – Africa's Role in the 21st Century	Nagy	T	3/4 – 4/1	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	4055 – Congress: The First Branch	Rotondi	T	3/18 – 4/8	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	4057 – Democracy in America Now	Schneider	TH	4/10 – 5/15	2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Virtual
<b>Literature &amp; Writing</b>	4058 – Germany: Crucible of Europe's Future?	Lankowski	T	3/4 – 4/22	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Virtual
	5004 – Writing A Memoir	Suydam	F	4/4 – 5/16	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Virtual
	5058 – Eight Modern British Poets	Collins	W	4/9 – 5/14	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Virtual
	5060 – Poems about Paintings - CANCELLED					
	5061 – African American Poetry - CANCELLED					
	5062 – Flannery O'Connor Short Stories	Sullivan	T	4/15 – 5/13	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	5063 – Write Your US Military Story - CANCELLED					
	5064 – Portrait of a Lady	Pfordresher	W	3/5 – 3/26	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Hybrid
	5065 – Novels of the Plague and Pandemics	Alter	F	3/14 – 4/25	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	5066 – King Lear	Manteuffel	F	3/7 – 3/28	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Virtual
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	5067 – American Storytellers 1872 - 2008	Auten	F	3/28 – 5/16	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Virtual
	6024 – Electric Vehicles - CANCELLED					
	6031 – Introduction to Spring Birding	Multiple	T	4/29 – 5/20	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Various
	6031 – Introduction to Spring Birding	Multiple	TH	5/1 – 5/22	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Various
<b>Social Sciences</b>	6038 – Climate Change and Solutions	Perz	T	3/4 – 4/1	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Virtual
	7013 – Contemporary Panpsychism	Holman	W	3/12 – 4/30	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	7037 – Wisdom of Important Texts	Rodgers	TH	3/13 – 4/17	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	GMU
	7038 – Psychology in Your Life and World	McLean	TH	3/20 – 4/24	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU



# 2025 SPRING SEMESTER

**March 3 – May 20**

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, February 3, 2025

Check the online catalog for the most recent course updates:

<https://encorelearning.net/courses>

**36 COURSES**

**26 NEW COURSES**

- **19 IN-PERSON**
- **13 VIRTUAL**
- **4 HYBRID**
- **9 RECORDED**



## VIRTUAL COURSE PREVIEW

**Thursday, January 30, 2025 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's coming in the Spring!

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

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

**Zoom Webinar ID:** 892 8214 4585



# General Information

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For more information, go to our website at [www.encorelearning.net](http://www.encorelearning.net)



## What is Encore Learning?

Encore Learning, a nonprofit educational organization founded in 2002, offers a wide variety of daytime college-level 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 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 and non-transferable. All memberships are processed online. To join, select JOIN at our website [www.encorelearning.net](http://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 Spring 2025.

Encore Learning will record a select number of courses during the spring 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 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.

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

## 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 Spring 2025 semester begins at 10:00 AM Monday, February 3, 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 [www.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*

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## Class Media

All course materials provided by instructors will be uploaded to a password-protected webpage on our website ([www.encorelearning.net](http://www.encorelearning.net)). The course webpage link and password will be shared in the course reminder email sent 2-3 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 becoming a class aide, an instructor 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 without regard to sex, race, color, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. To learn more about all of Encore Learning’s policies, please visit [encorelearning.net/about/policies](http://encorelearning.net/about/policies).

## Contact Encore Learning

Communicating with Encore Learning is easy, email: [info@encorelearning.net](mailto:info@encorelearning.net)  
Leave a voice message: 703-228-2144



## Review/Update

**your account information online before registration begins on February 3.**

- Note your password for easy access to your account on registration day.
- Choose your desired courses before logging in to register on February 3.
- Register online at 10:00 AM Monday, February 3 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.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions

This semester's offerings include virtual courses taught on Zoom, in-person courses at George Mason University's Mason Square Van Metre Hall, 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 of the end of each class session. Recordings will remain available until July 31, 2025. 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>

Spring registration begins at 10:00 AM Monday, February 3, 2025.



## Fine Arts, Theater & Music

### 1002 Theater Appreciation: The Educated Audience

 Instructor: D. Ohlandt

**Wednesday 12:00 – 1:30 PM**

**3/19 – 5/7 (No class 4/16)**

**Sessions: 7; Location: Fairlington Community Center**

Do you enjoy evenings at the theater but want to know more about what you are seeing? Have you ever wondered if knowing about the historical context of a play, a theater company or a performance style would help you better enjoy the production? If so, this is the class for you! We will focus on a musical and two plays. Through a series of readings and guided discussions, we will educate ourselves as forthcoming audience members about these new productions presented at three theaters in the DC area.

First, we will discuss the show before we see it, exploring what clues are available to us via the show summary, the venue's website, source documents and publicity materials. Next, we will see the production on our own. In the following week's class session, we will explore what we saw, considering performance style, technique and production values. Discussions of the plays and the productions will be facilitated by an instructor trained in theater history and dramatic theory.

Planned productions will be *In the Heights* at Signature Theatre, *Uncle Vanya* at Shakespeare Theatre and *Fake It Until You Make It* at Arena Stage.

*Recommended Reading: In the Heights: The Complete Book and Lyrics of The Broadway Musical*, Quiara Alegria Hudes and Lin-Manuel Miranda; *Uncle Vanya*, Anton Chekov, a new adaptation by Conor McPherson

*Performances:* Please make sure you have reserved your tickets. You will get more out of the class discussions if you can see the shows on the recommended dates.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

*In the Heights* at Signature Theater –  
see it between 3/26 and 4/1  
Box office: 703-820-9771  
Website: <https://www.sigtheatre.org/>

*Uncle Vanya* at Shakespeare Theater –  
see it between 4/9 and 4/20 (when it closes)  
Box office: 202-416-8540  
Website: <https://shakespearetheatre.org/>

*Fake It Until You Make It* at Arena Stage –  
see it between 4/30 and 5/4 (when it closes)  
Box office: 202-488-3300  
Website: <https://www.arenastage.org>

**D. Ohlandt** holds a PhD in theater studies from the University of Michigan and has more than 15 years of experience directing in community, university and regional theaters. She has taught theater history and practice to students from preschool through adult in a range of settings, including classrooms, summer camps and outdoor team-building courses.

## REFER A FRIEND!

You are our best  
source of info  
for prospective  
members.

Simply refer them to  
our website  
[www.encorelearning.net](http://www.encorelearning.net)

### **1052 Ballet: Seeing More, Enjoying More**

 Instructor: Ilsa Bush

**Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM**  
**3/5 – 5/7 (No class 4/23)**  
**Sessions: 9; Location: GMU**

This class will enrich participants' experience of watching ballet and other styles of concert dance. Learn about the history of ballet starting with the early court dances that generated it. We will look at changes in ballet over time and connections between traditional and contemporary ballet offerings. The course will include an examination of the defining elements of ballet technique, choreography, use of pattern, musical accompaniment, storytelling, character development, and stagecraft. We will view photos and videos that support each lecture, and each class session will include time for discussion. Participants are encouraged to bring questions and share their own knowledge of dance, other art forms and the history that influenced ballet.

**Ilsa Bush**, a retired lawyer, began ballet classes at age six and continues to take them. During her high school years, she performed with the New England Civic Ballet, predecessor to the Boston Ballet Company. She earned teaching credentials from American Ballet Theatre's teacher training program and taught ballet technique and dance history at DC area universities and studios for 20 years. She has taught this and related courses for OLLI at American University.

### **1053 Meeting the Bible Musically: Broadway Shows, Folk Songs, Operas, Oratorios, Symphonies and More**

 Instructor: Stephen Ruth

**Monday 2:00 – 3:30 PM**  
**3/17 – 4/7**  
**Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual**

When you hear "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," it may not be obvious that it is a famous Bible story – Elijah entering heaven. George Handel also wrote many stirring oratorios centered on famous Bible heroes and heroines. In this course, we will encounter dozens of wonderful melodies

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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from operas, symphonies, Broadway shows, popular music, and more. They are all based on famous or not so famous Bible stories. We will see and hear excerpts and get better acquainted with these stories. “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Godspell,” “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” Frankie Laine’s “Jezebel” and Louis Armstrong’s “Shadrach” – the hits keep coming! You do not have to know anything about the Bible for this course, but you do need to love great music.

**Stephen Ruth** is professor emeritus of public policy at the Schar School of Policy and Development at George Mason University. He is a frequent lecturer on technology and Bible topics. His book, *One Year Trip through the Bible: A Layman’s Fresh View of the Complete Old and New Testaments*, examines 73 books of the Hebrew Tanakh (Old Testament) and the Christian New Testament.

## 1054 Saddle Up! The Horse in Art

 **Instructor: Nan Morrison**

**Friday 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**3/7 – 4/11**

**Sessions: 6; Location: GMU**

The contribution of the horse to Western civilization is unmatched in the human experience. These powerful, unpredictable, remarkable animals have been used and trained for centuries in warfare, transportation, agriculture, law enforcement, pageantry, entertainment, recreation, sporting activities, therapeutic riding and more. It is no surprise, then, that for centuries artists have depicted the image of the horse. This course will explore artists’ rendering of the horse in paintings, sculpture and larger-than-life bronze statues through the ages. *The Equestrian Statue of Marcus Aurelius* (161-180 CE, unknown artist) on view at the Capitoline Museum in Rome and works by the Italian Renaissance artists Donatello (1386-1466) and Verrocchio (1435-1488) inspire the design and style to come.

The wonderful paintings by Rosa Bonheur, Eugène Delacroix and Jacques Louis David show just a few of the uses of the horse in the 19th century. Small tabletop equestrian bronzes by the French artists Théodore Géricault (1781-1824) and Edgar Degas (1834-1917) expand on the prolific artistic expression of the animal.

In our own country, we will examine *The Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial* relief by Augustus Saint Gaudens (1848-1907), today considered to be the finest American sculptor of the 19th century. We will also study a number of regal bronze equestrian statues installed on prime real estate in Washington, DC. Many were commissioned and created in the late 19th century to honor Union heroes from the Civil War; others celebrate U.S. presidents, a patron saint and international military leaders.

The last class will be a field trip at a date and time to be announced. We will meet in Lafayette Square to tour and discuss the *General Andrew Jackson Equestrian Statue* and *General William Tecumseh Sherman Equestrian Statue*.

**Nan Morrison** is an artist who has been a docent at the National Gallery of Art for 18 years. She earned a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree in liberal studies, with a concentration in art and culture, from Georgetown University. Her master’s thesis, “The Cultural Values of the Horse and Rider: An Iconological Examination of Equestrian Statuary,” was inspired by her many years as an equestrian. After retiring from a career in the federal government, she also taught Renaissance Art and Culture at Georgetown 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.
- Get to be an integral part of Encore Learning.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



## Health & Wellness

### 2024 Planning For Changes, Loss, New Beginnings

 Instructor: Sallie Wiley

Thursday 12:00 - 1:30 PM

4/3 – 5/8

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Plan and prepare now to manage change, including lifestyle changes, to navigate uncertainty and loss. Get critical documents and important personal affairs in order, consider options about your death, design a plan for your level of care and end-of-life wishes. You will benefit from stimulating presentations by sharing thought-provoking insights with others and participating in a variety of practical exercises. The course will feature guest speakers and personal testimonies. As the saying goes, “it takes milking a cow at sunrise to have cream at sunset.” You will embrace the opportunities presented by change, transition and the gifts of aging.

*Independent Reading: Man’s Search for Meaning, Viktor Frankl; The Resiliency Advantage (Master Change, Thrive Under Pressure, Bounce Back From Setbacks), Al Siebert; Make Today Count, John C. Maxwell*

**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.

### 2025 Understanding Happiness in the Encore Years

  Instructors: Peter Joyce and Tony Arciero

Friday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

3/14 – 4/4

Sessions: 4; Location: Hybrid

Arthur C. Brooks, a Harvard professor who studies happiness, highlights the transformative shift people can experience in later life, moving from career-centered goals to focusing on connection, meaning and well-being. Understanding and embracing these factors can make our “encore years” a time of rest and renewed happiness, growth and satisfaction. With thought-provoking presentations, interactive activities and inspiring guest speakers, this course will support participants as they adopt new ideas for finding happiness.

First-time Encore Learning instructors during the fall 2024 term, Tony Arciero and Peter Joyce are joining forces for what should be an interesting and fun class. With Tony’s background in the U.S. Air Force and his work in promoting well-being, alongside Peter’s extensive experience in education and policy, the two bring a unique blend of insights into how happiness can be cultivated in our encore years.



# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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For anyone interested in navigating this stage of life with renewed purpose and joy, the instructors offer a lively, interactive series of classes.

**Class 1** will explore the concept of happiness in later life, define “encore years,” and examine the psychological shifts from career to post-career phases.

**Class 2** will look at the importance of social connections, community engagement, and meaningful relationships for happiness in later life, including strategies for strengthening existing relationships and making new connections.

**Class 3** will focus on cultivating purpose and lifelong learning, helping participants rediscover a sense of purpose and growth through hobbies, interests, and skills development.

**Class 4** will offer practices for mindfulness and gratitude that foster a positive outlook on aging and life changes.

*Recommended Readings: The Art and Science of Connection: Why Social Health Is the Missing Key to*

*Living Longer, Healthier, and Happier, Kasley Killam; Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier, Arthur C. Brooks and Oprah Winfrey*

**Peter Joyce** is an educator of 40-plus years including time as a science teacher, state/national policymaker, tech workforce manager, international development project designer, and diplomat in Nairobi, Kenya. He earned a PhD at Harvard University, where career management and retirement were never discussed. He looks forward to working with a passionate group of people who want to think through their next chapter in life.

**Tony Arciero** spent most of his working life on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. At the age of 57, he earned a PhD in educational psychology and has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in learning theory, motivation, developmental psychology, statistics and research methods. During his PhD program, he studied life purpose – how it is defined and measured. He is the director of research for The-Pursuit-of-Happiness, a nonprofit organization that seeks to promote physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing through lifestyle changes.

## REVIEW/UPDATE



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# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



## History

### 3003 Arlington History

Instructor: Karl VanNewkirk

Thursday 3:00 – 4:30 PM

3/27 – 5/15

Sessions: 8; Various Locations

This is a survey of the history of Arlington from the time before the arrival of European settlers to the present. Each session will be held in a different location, with the instructor providing directions before class begins. The intention of the course is to visit the Arlington Historical Museum; the “secret hideaway” of a silent film star; the oldest house (a log cabin) in Arlington; one of the first monuments erected in the new national capital; the largest colonial-era plantation in Arlington; a Civil War fort; the first “community center” built in Arlington; Fairlington, where the entire community is on the National Register of Historic Places; and a historic Black church. The instructor will provide directions. Some walking will be required. Join us and learn all about our local history!

**Karl VanNewkirk** served four terms as president of the Arlington Historical Society (1991-1992, 1994-1995, and 2015-2017) and recently retired as a director. He has been a docent at the Arlington Historical Museum since the early 1990s and was the editor of the *Arlington Historical Magazine* from 1992 to 2015. He was a member of the board of directors of the Arlington Black Heritage Museum from its inception until 2009 and volunteered from 2000 until 2020 for the archaeology department at Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason.



### 3077 World War I: Its Impact on Western Culture and the Western Worldview

Instructor: Charles O'Connor

Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

3/4 – 5/6

Sessions: 10; Location: GMU

Intellectual and cultural historians generally consider World War I the turning point in modern Western civilization. This disastrous war shattered Enlightenment confidence in human reason, exposed the nineteenth-century myth of inevitable progress, challenged traditional belief in a divinely ordered universe, and fostered a postwar cosmic pessimism and materialist cosmology. To understand the war's effect on Western culture, we will compare prewar and postwar philosophy, theology, literature, art, and music, focusing on the evolving Western view of reality.

*Recommended Reading:*

*The Great War and the Death of God: Cultural Breakdown, Retreat from Reason, and Rise of Neo-Darwinian Materialism in the Aftermath of World War I*, Charles O'Connor;  
*Man Against the Darkness, and Other Essays*, Walter Terence Stace

PDFs of the following papers by Charles O'Connor will be available for registered students:

- “Judaism and the Rise of Scientific Materialism after the Great War”
- “Western Music, Cosmic Meaning, and the Great War”
- “The Great War and African American Experience and Culture”

**Charles O'Connor** earned a Doctor of Liberal Studies degree from Georgetown University focusing on modern Western culture, including the cultural impact of World War I. He has lectured in the Liberal Studies Program and taught for more than 10 years for OLLI at American University. He practiced environmental law for more than 40 years.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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## 3078 Civil War and Reconstruction

 Instructor: Eric Gartman

Thursday 12:00 - 1:30 PM

3/6 – 5/1 (No class 4/3)

Sessions: 8; Location: GMU

The Civil War was the bloodiest war in American history and may be the most important single event in our history. In this class we will:

- Examine why the nation was torn apart in the mid-19th century;
- Explore the issues of slavery, states' rights and tariffs that brought the war on;
- Review the strategies, campaigns, battles and military leaders of the war, which dragged on for four bloody and seemingly endless years;
- Discuss the era after the war, known as Reconstruction, which is now viewed through a very different lens by some historians, who are calling it a "Second Civil War"; and
- Analyze how and why Americans' views of the Civil War and Reconstruction have undergone drastic changes over the century and a half since the conflict ended, and why it is still relevant today in debates over statues and memorials.

*Recommended Readings: A Savage War: A Military History of the Civil War, Williamson Murray and Wayne Wei-siang Hsieh; The War After the War: A New History of Reconstruction, John Patrick Daly.*

**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.

## REMEMBER

check [www.encorelearning.net](http://www.encorelearning.net) for the most up-to-date information!

## 3079 History of Journalism in the United States

 Instructor: Charles Self

Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

4/9 – 5/14

Sessions: 6; Location: Virtual and Recorded

Both the U.S. media system and U.S. society seem to be undergoing significant changes in the early 21st century. A look at the history of society and journalism shows that change has always been part of the nation's democratic and media systems. Recent post-election questions about whether democracy itself and a free press are at risk have been met with assurances by the president-elect that his goal is to protect democracy.

This course will look at how change has unfolded by examining the history of journalism and of public debate. Journalism reflects and enhances the public debate about changes in society. We will examine how this pattern has emerged within:

1. The American Revolutionary press;
2. Early 19th century nation-building;
3. Late 19th century industrialization;
4. The 20th century war years and mass society norming;
5. The late 20th century focus on freedom and equality, and the spread of media specialization and fragmentation; and
6. 21st century promises to reconstruct social unity amid shifting media technologies.

Our examination will reveal an underlying social tension between individual freedom and community obligations. That tension has been a dominant characteristic of media content as it has been in public debate; it has pivoted back and forth between these two poles across time. The ultimate goal is to better understand the direction that media and society are likely to take in the coming years.

**Charles Self**, PhD, is professor emeritus and a former dean at the University of Oklahoma. He has served as president of three national journalism educator organizations. Currently, he serves on the board of the National Press Foundation and briefs foreign journalists for the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program on free speech, free press, the U.S. Constitution and democracy. He began his career as a reporter, editor and war correspondent.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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## **3080 Arlington County and Metro-Urban Development, 1975–2025**

 Instructor: Mike Bush

**Monday 12:00 – 1:30 PM**

**3/17 – 4/7**

**Sessions: 4; Location: GMU**

Arlington’s “built environment” has changed dramatically over the last 50 years. In 1975, Wilson Boulevard, Washington Boulevard and Fairfax Drive were occupied largely by parking lots, auto repair shops, small restaurants and tombstone makers; in 2025, those streets are lined with new apartments, offices, restaurants and retail. The new development is closely linked to expansion of the Metrorail system: the Blue/Yellow Line opened in 1977, followed by the Orange Line in 1979. The Orange Line sparked construction of George Mason University’s Virginia Square campus; Ballston Quarter; Clarendon’s food markets; and Rosslyn’s hotel, office and apartment towers. The Blue/Yellow Line led to Amazon’s National Landing, Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, and Virginia Tech’s forthcoming 12-story Innovation Campus. Some of the growth overwhelmed the county’s master plan, but the county was smart enough to adapt the plan to market forces.

The course will look at key factors in the county’s urban redevelopment, including how the county secured five Metro stations along the 2.5-mile Wilson Boulevard corridor; how some first-generation projects did not pan out; and how Amazon was persuaded to build its second headquarters in Arlington.

*Recommended Website:* [www.ProjectREAP.org](http://www.ProjectREAP.org)

**Mike Bush** began his career as a corporate lawyer and in 1985 became chief real estate officer for Giant Food, where he implemented store development goals. He has more than five decades of experience in commercial real estate. In 1997, he founded the Real Estate Associate Program (REAP), a nonprofit that identifies talented minority professionals and connects them with careers in commercial real estate. Since 2011, he has served as adjunct professor of urban development in the Master’s in Real Estate program at Georgetown University; he has taught in similar programs at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland.

## **3081 Voices of Resilience: Arlington’s Black Community From Enslavement through Jim Crow**

 Instructor: Multiple

**Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

**4/15 – 5/13**

**Sessions: 5; Various Locations**

This is your chance to hear unique voices on the history and experiences of Arlington’s Black community from enslavement through the 1960s. The course will include in-person accounts from descendants of key historical figures, describing how the community remained resilient despite tremendous obstacles. There will also be visits to the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington and Arlington House. After these on-site visits, participants will meet a descendant of those who were enslaved at Mount Vernon and Arlington House and later discuss the important role of Black churches and how they shaped the lives of Arlington’s African American citizens beyond their obvious religious influence.

The final two classroom sessions will examine present-day research on the impact of enslavement and Jim Crow in Arlington today. In one session we will learn how Arlington’s built environment impacted Black community development and explore how zoning, planning and legislative changes affected the lives and neighborhoods of Black Arlingtonians. The last session will discuss the ongoing Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington (MEA) Project, overseen by the Arlington Historical Society, which is documenting and memorializing the local history of enslavement.

**Session 1: The Resilience of the Formerly Enslaved of Arlington** (April 15, Scott Taylor), Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, 3045 Columbia Pike, Arlington  
Formerly enslaved people in Arlington rose to hold political office, bought land, started businesses, founded schools, and created vibrant civic and religious organizations. The class will visit the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington and learn about their post-emancipation rise, see how White people in Arlington responded during and after Jim Crow and learn about the ongoing resilience of Black Arlingtonians over the past century.

*Recommended Website:* <https://arlingtonblackheritage.org>

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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**Session 2: Stories of My Ancestors: Visiting the Enslaved Peoples' Quarters at Arlington House** (April 22, Steve Hammond), Arlington House, Arlington Cemetery  
This session will take place on the site of the former Arlington House plantation (part of Arlington National Cemetery), established by George Washington Parke Custis in 1802, overlooking the young capital city of Washington, D.C. It is the site of the largest community in Arlington County of individuals enslaved by a single person. Participants will be introduced to the complex history of the Arlington House plantation and will discuss how descendants of the enslaved and free people there are working with the National Park Service to enhance how this site is interpreted for the public today.

*Recommended website:* <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil> (Arlington House)

**Session 3: The Role of the Black Church** (April 29, Craig Syphax), GMU  
This session will explore the vital role of the Black churches that emerged from the Freedman's Village on the Arlington House plantation grounds in supporting the newly freed African American community after the Civil War. In addition to spiritual guidance, these churches provided education and a sense of unity for formerly enslaved people, helping them navigate their newfound freedom. They also served as community centers, offering aid and fostering social and political activism, which contributed to the development of Black leadership and empowerment in the region. Their influence shaped the social and cultural life of the African American population in Arlington.

**Session 4: The Power of Place** (May 6, Lindsey Bestebreurtje), GMU  
This session will discuss the ways in which Arlington's built environment impacted Black community development. By looking at the physical changes to Arlington's growing suburban landscape during the 20th century, we will explore how zoning, planning and legislative changes impacted the lives and neighborhoods of Black Arlingtonians, while also learning about the strategies they employed to keep their communities strong in the face of the realities of the Jim Crow era.

*Recommended Website:* <https://lindseybestebreurtje.org>

**Session 5: Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington** (May 13, Jessica Kaplan), GMU  
This session will provide an overview of the ongoing MEA Project overseen by AHS. The instructor will include sources that helped reveal the history of enslavement in Arlington and tell some of the stories that were uncovered. The MEA project, AHS and Arlington County cooperated to place "stumbling stones" – commemorative plaques to mark where enslaved people lived – which will also be discussed.

*Recommended website:* MEA project:  
<https://arlhist.org/enslavement>

**Scott Taylor** is a native Arlingtonian and president of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. He works in the Arlington Public Schools and is musical director of the Mt. Salvation Baptist Church in Arlington.

**Steve Hammond** is a retired earth scientist who worked at the U.S. Geological Survey for 40 years. He is a genealogist, family historian and descendant of the Syphax family. He has helped to establish descendant groups at George Washington's Mount Vernon and at Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. He is a National Park Service volunteer docent at Arlington House.

**Craig Syphax** is a descendant of slaves from Mount Vernon and Arlington House and a native Arlingtonian. He is a former board member of the Arlington House Foundation and president emeritus of The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. A real estate investor since 1998, he manages his properties and has also worked as a television producer at Arlington Independent Media since 2004.

**Lindsey Bestebreurtje**, PhD, has served as a curatorial assistant with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture since 2015. Her first book, *Built By the People Themselves*, explores African American community development and suburbanization in Arlington County from the Civil War through the Civil Rights era. She holds a BA in history from the College of William and Mary, as well as an MA in museum studies and a PhD in history from George Mason University.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

**Jessica Kaplan** co-coordinates the Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington project. She is an archivist and historical researcher who has worked at the Library of Congress and the Jewish Historical Society. Currently she edits the *Arlington Historical Society* magazine and serves on the board of AHS.

## 3082 Civil War in Washington and Beyond

   Instructor: Tyler Anbinder

**Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**3/5 – 5/7 (No class 3/12 or 4/16)**

**Sessions: 8; Location: Hybrid and Recorded**

This will not be a typical Civil War course: It will devote as much time to Congress and the home front as it will to the fighting on the battlefields. We will look at Lincoln's growth as a leader; the politics and the important elections in both the North and the South; how the war to save the Union became a war to end slavery; how African Americans forced the issue of emancipation upon a reluctant president; and lastly, the 10 key battles that shaped the outcome of the war and the generals who helped determine the results of those battles.

**Tyler Anbinder** was a professor of history for 26 years at George Washington University where he taught courses in the era of the American Civil War and American immigration history until his retirement in 2020. He is the author of four books: *Nativism and Slavery: The Northern Know Nothings and the Politics of the 1850s*; *Five Points: The 19th-Century 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 most recently *Plentiful Country: The Great Potato Famine and the Making of Irish New York*.

# DON'T FORGET!

Spring 2025 Course Preview  
January 30 at 9:30 AM on Zoom!

## 3083 Populism and Authoritarianism in Latin America: The Recent History of an Explosive Relationship

   Instructor: Robert Albro

**Monday 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

**3/3 – 4/7**

**Sessions: 6; Location: Hybrid and Recorded**

This course will consider a variety of recent neopopulist figures, movements and governments across Latin America since the end of the Cold War. We will examine the different ways in which populist and authoritarian governance have become intermingled in Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, El Salvador, Argentina and Mexico, among other places.

Latin America has a long history of populist movements, but populism is a highly contested concept not easily defined. One can point to similarities among figures or movements conventionally identified as "populist," analyze relationships between leaders and publics, or focus on institutional mechanisms of representation or means of retaining power. One common thread of classic populism is the pursuit of statist economic policies. While behaving like earlier populists, contemporary figures often embrace neoliberal economic policies.

The region is also historically associated with authoritarianism, including abuse of power and violation of human rights. While authoritarian regimes are no longer ubiquitous in the region, the recent emergence of authoritarian populism complicates this picture. The use of authoritarian governance during democratic times has not only persisted but become institutionalized in various ways. Therefore, we will also look at post-democratization patterns of authoritarianism, including some practices affecting indigenous peoples and women as well as criminal gangs.

*Recommended Reading:* "Populism," Robert Albro; "Can Latin American Democracy Withstand the Populist Assault?" Javier Corrales; "How to Stop the Increasingly Authoritarian Slide in Latin America," Mark Schneider; "How the New Right in Latin America Differs From Other Emerging Far Right Movements," Juan Manuel Morales; "South America's Authoritarian Turn," Andreas Behn.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

**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. More recently, he has researched and published on climate displacement, public diplomacy and new geopolitics in the region. 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.

## 3084 Renaissance in Rome

 **Instructor: Tom Wukitsch**

**Monday 12:00 - 2:00 PM**

**3/3 – 5/12 (No class 4/14)**

**Sessions: 10; Location: Virtual and Recorded**

Do not let those Florentines fool you! Though the Renaissance of art and architecture began in northern Italy (Florence, Milan and Venice), the literary Renaissance began well before that in Rome. Then, as papal patrons got richer, the preponderance of Renaissance art and architecture and their producers/purveyors also moved to Rome. The best and biggest Renaissance objects were simply added to the best and biggest ancient Roman works. Luckily for us, tons of Renaissance art and architecture were well-cleaned, restored and redisplayed in preparation for the 2000 millennial year. Twenty-five years later, it is still brighter and shinier than when it was made. There is plenty to absorb in the Renaissance in Rome.

*Recommended website:* <http://www.mmdtkw.org/>

**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 taught at the Gruppo Archeologico Romano in Rome and has led Encore Learning study trips to Egypt, Italy, Turkey, Greece and the Aegean islands.



**Law, Politics  
& Public Affairs**

## 4004 Global Hot Spots

 **Instructor: Multiple**

**Thursday 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

**3/6 – 4/3**

**Sessions: 5; Location: Virtual**

This course examines prominent conflicts in the world with the help of distinguished foreign policy experts. This spring we will take a look at three wars taking place in Ukraine, the Middle East and what is among the world's biggest crises: the civil war in Sudan. We will also take a look at the tensions between China and the countries bordering the South China Sea, as China tries to claim that entire area as its sovereign territory. We will also consider the role Turkey plays as a middleman between East and West and diplomatic and military actor in the Ukrainian and Middle East conflicts. The five speakers are distinguished former U.S. diplomats with extensive experience in the countries and regions to be covered.

### **How To Bring Peace to Ukraine** (William Taylor)

February 24, 2025, marks the third year since Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukraine War, which started in 2014. The invasion, the largest and deadliest conflict in Europe since World War II, has caused hundreds of thousands of military casualties and tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilian casualties. The instructor will bring us up to date on the state of the conflict and discuss possible avenues toward a cease-fire and possibly a peace agreement.

### **Sudan: the World's Greatest Humanitarian Crisis**

(Tibor Nagy)

In 1994 Sudan topped the International Rescue Committee's Emergency Watchlist of countries most likely to experience a deteriorating humanitarian crisis. A power struggle erupted in April 2023 between the commanders of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces as the country was about to transfer to civilian rule; it has been driving humanitarian needs in the country ever since.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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Conservative estimates are more than 20,000 killed and more than 33,000 injured. Long-term political instability and economic pressures left 15.8 million people in need of humanitarian aid even before the civil war erupted. At this point, 25.6 million people – more than half of Sudan’s population – are in need, which has led to displacement of over 11 million people from their homes. Humanitarian access has been severely curtailed, and reports of mass killings, rapes and ethnic killings occur daily. The instructor will describe the Sudanese crisis, how it is being fueled by outside actors, and efforts to bring about a cease-fire so that humanitarian aid deliveries can be made safely and effectively.

## **Dealing with Conflict in the South China Sea**

(Daniel Shields)

How can the United States and like-minded allies and partners work with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to help defend international law and protect the interests of the Southeast Asian claimants (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam) in the South China Sea? Two of these claimants will be in the driver’s seat as ASEAN Chair – Malaysia in 2025 and the Philippines, a U.S. ally, in 2026 – so the timing is favorable for a focus on South China Sea diplomacy. The stakes for the Indo-Pacific region are high as an estimated \$3.4 trillion in annual maritime trade, including crucial energy supplies moving from the Middle East to East Asia, pass through the area. Unfortunately, tensions, especially between China and the Philippines, have been running high as China has used ship-ramming and other “gray zone” tactics to try to control shoals located in the Philippines’ Exclusive Economic Zone.

## **Türkiye and Its World: Geography and Policy**

(Marc Grossman)

In today’s complex and multipolar world, Turkey, or the Republic of Türkiye as it is officially known, is an important part of what *The Economist* magazine calls the “Transactional 25,” that is, nations that pursue policies designed to give them choices on global political, defense and economic issues. The instructor will explore how Türkiye’s history and geography influence its pursuits and aspirations, including a discussion of Türkiye-U.S. relations.

## **The View from Jerusalem on the Mideast Conflict**

(Robert Silverman)

How might cease fire agreements, followed by peace agreements, be struck between Israel and those entities attacking it: Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran? Israelis have united to defend their country, but political tensions subsumed by the fighting will surface once it stops and Israel will have to make hard decisions to forge lasting peace agreements. How might this play out through Israel’s democracy and how can the U.S. and other countries assist with this difficult process?

**William Taylor** is a former diplomat, government official and military officer who served as ambassador (2006-2009) and charge d’affaires (2019-2020) to Ukraine. His time there was cut short after he expressed concern that military assistance to Ukraine appeared to be conditioned on its conduct of two investigations: one of former President Joe Biden for alleged corruption in Ukraine and the other of allegations that hacked computers of the Democratic National Committee were hidden in Ukraine. In October 2019, he testified before the House of Representatives in the impeachment inquiry against Donald Trump. His testimony was widely viewed as an inflection point in that inquiry.

**Tibor Nagy** was assistant secretary of state for African affairs (2018-2021). From 2003 to 2018, he served as vice provost for international affairs at Texas Tech University. Before that, he was ambassador to Ethiopia (1999-2002) and Guinea (1996-1999) after serving as deputy ambassador in Nigeria, Cameroon and Togo. He lectures nationally on Africa, foreign policy and international development.

**Daniel Shields** was ambassador to Brunei (2011-2014), where he handled sensitive South China Sea-related issues in connection with Brunei’s 2013 hosting of summits involving the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN). He served as acting ambassador on two other diplomatic missions to ASEAN in Jakarta. As acting ambassador, mostly in 2009, he supported then-President Barack Obama’s participation in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings. He also served (2015-2018) as diplomatic advisor to the commandant at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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**Marc Grossman** was ambassador to Turkey, assistant secretary of state for European affairs and under-secretary of state for political affairs. In an earlier tour, he served as deputy chief of mission in Ankara. At State Department headquarters in Washington, he has held senior positions, including executive secretary, director general of the Foreign Service and special assistant to the Secretary of State. He is currently a vice chairman of the Cohen Group headed by former secretary of defense William Cohen.

**Robert Silverman** is a retired senior foreign service officer living in Israel, where he lectures at Shalem College in Jerusalem and at the University of Haifa. He is editor-in-chief of *The Jerusalem Strategic Tribune*. In the US, he leads the national nonprofit Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance, which promotes religious freedom and counters bigotry. While in the Foreign Service, he was political counselor in Tel Aviv, economic counselor in both Riyadh and Baku, deputy economic counselor in Ankara, political officer in Cairo and Jerusalem, as well as the leader of a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Tikrit, Iraq. In his Washington tours, he served as the director of the Iraq Reconstruction and Economic Affairs Office and president of the American Foreign Service Association of 17,000 members.

## 4046 Intelligence Community 101

 **Instructor: Caryn Wagner**

**Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**3/27 – 5/1**

**Sessions: 6; Location: GMU**

Get an overview of the Intelligence Community (IC), how it has evolved, how it is organized and managed and how it is governed and monitored under our legal system. We will begin by discussing the purpose of intelligence, how it serves the policy community, and

at times fraught relationship between intelligence professionals and policymakers. We will conduct a top-level exploration of core IC missions – analysis, collection, counterintelligence – and how emerging technologies such as cyber and artificial intelligence (AI) affect them now and potentially in the future. We will also spend time on the changed intelligence landscape after 9/11, the evolution of domestic intelligence and what the government can and cannot do with regard to U.S. persons. Finally, we will look at intelligence oversight: how does our government attempt to ensure IC activities comply with the law?

By the end of the course, participants will have a more accurate view of the IC than can be gleaned from the media. They will understand how it can serve our national interests but also how and why things can go wrong.

*Recommended Reading: Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, 8th ed., Mark Lowenthal

*Independent Reading: Blinking Red: Crisis and Compromise in American Intelligence After 9/11*, Michael Allen; *Fact and Fears: Hard Truths from a Life in Intelligence*, James Clapper

*Recommended Websites:* DNI.gov, Lawfaremedia.org

**Caryn Wagner** is a consultant and speaker on national and homeland security intelligence issues. Until 2023, she was an adjunct faculty member at the National Intelligence University. She served more than 30 years in U.S. intelligence, retiring as undersecretary for intelligence and analysis at the Department of Homeland Security. She served in senior positions at CIA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Defense Intelligence Agency; and as a staff member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. She began her career in Army intelligence.

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

See pg 29 for more details.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

## 4047 Africa's Role in the 21st Century

 Instructor: Tibor Nagy

Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

3/4 – 4/1 (No class 3/25)

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

Africa is the only world region that will undergo such a dramatic population increase by mid-century, doubling by 2050. This “youth tsunami” will be either a significant force for economic growth and improved living conditions in Africa, or increased global terrorism, instability and migration flows. Currently, Africa is the continent least understood by Americans. The perception – unfortunately amplified by Western media – is that of a land of war, famine and pestilence, while the reality is much more complex.

This course will examine major current issues after briefly surveying Africa's history, geography, societies and culture. Topics include the changing political environment and Africa's international relations; conflicts and violent extremism; human rights and women's issues; economic development and poverty (including the role played by international assistance); humanitarian disasters; environmental challenges; and public health (including HIV/AIDS and other pandemics). We will also cover some of the continent's key countries and examine Africa's role in U.S. global policy priorities.

**Tibor Nagy** was most recently U.S. assistant secretary of state for African Affairs. For 15 years prior, he served as vice provost for international affairs at Texas Tech University, where he is professor emeritus. During his 32-year diplomatic career, he served 22 years at eight African postings, including U.S. ambassador twice (Ethiopia and Guinea) and deputy ambassador four times (Seychelles, Togo, Cameroon and Nigeria). He lectures nationally on Africa and U.S. foreign policy and is co-author of *Managing Overseas Operations: Kiss Your Latte Goodbye*.

## GOT IDEAS

for new courses or new instructors?

Email them to [info@encorelearning.net](mailto:info@encorelearning.net)!

## 4055 Congress: The First Branch

 Instructor: Phillip Rotondi

Tuesday 12:00 - 1:30 PM

3/18 – 4/8

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

The historian Robert V. Remini described the House of Representatives as an “extraordinary instrument for legislating the will of the American people.” Similar accolades have been bestowed on the U.S. Senate, e.g., “the world's greatest deliberative body.”

Few today, however, would concur with these characterizations. Recent polling puts Congress's approval rating as low as 13 percent, reflecting a 118th Congress that saw threats of government default on its debt; over-reliance on “continuing resolutions” to avoid government shutdowns; partisan impeachment inquiries and censures; the removal of a speaker after 15 ballots to elect him; and, in the end, adjournment after having enacted few laws.

This course takes a close-up look at Congress beginning with a discussion of the frustrations and factors contributing to today's hyper-partisanship, including gerrymandered redistricting. On the agenda, too, are the oft-overlooked November party caucuses that precede the start of any new Congress. Then we will delve into the nuts and bolts of the legislative process, taking particular note of the rules and “special procedures” used in the last Congress to get its very few accomplishments to the president's desk for signature into law.

Congress is often referred to as “the First Branch,” reflecting both its position in the Constitution and its governing preeminence vis à vis the executive and judicial branches. Congress also is the only branch directly accountable to “We the People.” A thorough understanding of both its merits and shortcomings is necessary if we are to exercise this privilege responsibly. Americans sense that things are not working, but without an understanding of how they should work, it is not possible to expect – and demand – better.

*Independent Reading: The Congressional Experience: An Institution Transformed*, David E. Price; *The Dance of Legislation: An Insider's Account of the Workings of the United States Senate*, Eric Redman; *The House: The*

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

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*History of the House of Representatives*, Robert V. Remini and the Library of Congress; *Constitution of the United States (Article 1)*.

**Phillip Rotondi** retired from the U.S. House of Representatives after 25 years in key staff positions including subcommittee staff director, congressional office chief of staff and legislative director. Following his Capitol Hill career, he worked at the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare as its political director, where his responsibilities included preparing campaign analyses and managing the day-to-day activities of its Political Action Committee. He also taught 11th and 12th grade history and government. He received a BA from American University, MS from The George Washington University and a Virginia Collegiate Professional Teaching Certification from George Mason University.

## 4057 Democracy in America Now

 Instructor: Bill Schneider

Thursday 2:30 – 4:00 PM

4/10 – 5/15

Sessions: 6; Location: Virtual and Recorded

The election is over, the people have spoken ... but what does it mean? Many of us, including some well-known pollsters, missed what was coming. Have we been living in a bubble here in the D.C. area? The instructor, a noted political analyst, commentator and academician, will help students understand what happened in the election of 2024. We will learn about the impact of MAGA-style populism on democracy in the United States and gain insights into American politics – past, present and future.

Students should follow the daily coverage of American politics in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

**Bill Schneider** is professor emeritus at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. He was CNN's senior political analyst from 1990 to 2009 and now writes the blog "On Politics" for Substack. He is the author of *Standoff: How America Became Ungovernable* (2018) and has covered every U.S. presidential and midterm election since 1964. He earned a BA from Brandeis University and PhD in political science from Harvard University.

## 4058 Germany: Crucible of Europe's Future?

 Instructor: Carl Lankowski

Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

3/4 – 4/22

Sessions: 8; Location: Virtual

Outside of Russia, Germany is Europe's most populous country, with the continent's largest GDP. What sort of role Europe plays in the world will depend to a considerable degree on what happens in Germany.

This course offers a portrait focusing on trends challenging Germany's economic model, political system and even its identity. We will start by considering Germany's story in European history and ponder its post-World War II memory culture. Then we will pivot to an examination of its postwar polity and political party landscape, which is deeply entwined with the organization of its economy, our next stop. We will continue with the impact of demographic trends and Germany's changing face. The final three sessions deal with Germany's role in the European Union, the impact of "re-unification" and Germany's evolving foreign policy orientation.

**Carl Lankowski**, PhD, has written extensively on German political parties. He taught international relations and comparative politics at Fordham University, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, the State University of New York-Albany and American University. From 1995 to 2000, he served as deputy director and research director of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University. From then until his retirement in 2020, he directed the European area studies program at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute. He also led the Sister City relationship between Arlington County and Aachen, Germany.

### When Does My Current Membership Expire?

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

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



## Literature & Writing

### 5004 Writing A Memoir

■ Instructor: Marty Suydam

Friday 10:00 – 12:00 PM

4/4 – 5/16 (No class 4/18)

Sessions: 6; Location: Virtual

So you want to write your story but cannot get started? Guided by the instructor's own book, *Writing A Memoir* (2nd ed.), we will consider many kinds of personal writing: memoirs, diaries, family histories, journals, letters, even poetry. *Writing A Memoir* is structured with the following chapters: Getting Started, Research, Story Writing, Organizing and Publishing. Each chapter is the basis for one of the lectures.

The class will be a lecture-discussion workshop. Every week, class members will write and read their own work and *gently* critique each other's work.

The goal is to get the memoir writing started, then provide guidance for continuing to write after the course is over.

**Marty Suydam** is a retired army officer, government and corporate executive, and professor. He is a member of an informal memoir-writing group, Cherie's Gang, named for the long-term Encore Learning instructor Cherie Bottum. He has published articles in *The Arlington Historical Magazine* and several memoir/history books including *Walks with Charley: Sniffing Arlington Ridge History and Mystery* (3rd ed.), *Let's Go Camping, Our Montclair Times, Walk Four Mile Run* (2nd ed.), *I Remember: Skybeavers* (2nd ed.) and *Walks with the Rambler*. He has helped many members who have taken this course to publish their memoir books.

### 5058 Eight Modern British Poets

■ Instructor: Michael Collins

Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

4/9 – 5/14 (No class 4/16)

Sessions: 5; Location: Virtual

The course will look at one or two poems by eight modern British poets. We will consider various contexts for the poems, but the classes will involve primarily close and careful readings of each poem to discover not only what the poem says, but also what it does, through the poet's use of language. Although some (but not all) of the poems may seem initially difficult to understand, the goal of the course is to make the work of these poets more accessible and rewarding.

The course will run for five classes. Each of the first four classes will focus on one or two poems by two poets. The final class will be devoted to questions about and discussions of issues that have emerged in the classes and poets who might have been included in the course. The eight poets are Thomas Hardy, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Butler Yeats, Wilfred Owen, T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, Philip Larkin. Most of the poems are available online, and participants will be provided with an anthology of the poems.

*Note:* This course was originally scheduled for the fall 2024 term.

**Michael Collins** is teaching professor of English and dean *emeritus* at Georgetown University. At Georgetown, he taught courses and published articles on Shakespeare and modern British poetry and drama. He received the Edward J. Bunn Award for outstanding teaching at Georgetown University.



# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

## 5060 Ekphrastic Poetry: Poems about Paintings

 Instructor: Gerry Hendershot

**Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**3/4 – 3/25**

**Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual**

Deepen your understanding of well-known paintings by Rembrandt, Caravaggio, Hopper and others by reading poetry by W. H. Auden, William Carlos Williams and others who have written about great masterpieces. The interaction between paintings and poems about the paintings (known as “ekphrastic” poems) will boost your appreciation of both. No prior education in art or poetry will be assumed; general aspects of art history and poetic form will be introduced. Art experts from local museums will be invited to visit the class. Participants will have an opportunity to write and share their own ekphrastic poems.

The text of poems and images of paintings for each week will be available to students a few days prior to each class meeting.

**Gerry Hendershot** is a retired health statistician at the Centers for Disease Control and college professor at Vanderbilt University and Brown University. He began reading, writing and teaching poetry following retirement. He has published poems in several journals and led poetry courses and discussion series on ekphrastic poetry and Black poetry for the OLLI at American University and George Mason University.

## 5061 African American Poetry

  Instructor: Gerry Hendershot

**Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**4/22 – 5/13**

**Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual and Recorded**

Students will read and discuss poems selected from *African-American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle & Song*, an anthology edited by Kevin Young, director of the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture. The poets will be discussed chronologically, emphasizing better-known ones and the

continuities among them, beginning with 18th century poet Phillis Wheatley and including 21st century poets Natasha Trethewey and Terrance Hayes, among others. Students will be encouraged to share stories from their own lives that relate to the poems by writing their responses in prose or poetry. Black poets from the local area will be invited to visit the class and discuss the influence of earlier Black poets on their own work.

Most of the poems will be selected from the anthology, but poems from other sources also will be included. Copies of all poems will be available several days before each class meeting, so purchasing the anthology will not be necessary.

**Gerry Hendershot** is a retired health statistician at the Centers for Disease Control and college professor at Vanderbilt University and Brown University. He has taught and co-taught courses on Black poetry for the OLLI at American University and George Mason University.



# DON'T Forget!

Join the Spring 2025  
Course Preview on  
Thursday, January 30  
at 9:30 AM on Zoom.

Invite your friends  
and neighbors to join!

See page 2 for details

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions continued

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## 5062 Flannery O'Connor Short Stories

 Instructor: Jenny Sullivan

**Tuesday 12:00 - 1:30 PM**

**4/15 – 5/13**

**Sessions: 5; Location: GMU**

Flannery O'Connor's stories are odd, magnificent, often funny and yet they are also of eternal consequence. This Georgia native wrote about "good country people" who were not always so good, who lived "in territory held largely by the devil," by which she meant the world, not just the South. O'Connor died in 1964 at the young age of 39 from lupus, but she managed to lead an amazingly intellectual, emotional and spiritual life. Her stories are all about redemption and the grace of God, even though people need a little help at times in seeing that, because her prophets of truth are often strange, even ludicrous, people. Her stories are still compelling and the popularity of this self-proclaimed "Hillbilly Thomist" continues to grow.

*Independent Reading: Flannery O'Connor: Collected Works*, Library of America.

**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.

## 5063 Write Your US Military Story

 Instructor: Alex Sebbly

**Monday 12:00 - 1:30 PM**

**4/21 – 5/12**

**Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual**

Served in the military? Do not let your story and insights fade away. Keep your story alive forever. The instructor served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1999 to 2003. He has seen the power of writing down your military story. The process is like rolling back the clock for a moment, where you fondly remember your team and the challenges you overcame while serving your country. These experiences are deeply meaningful. Once written down, your story will live forever. Using resources from

the Library of Congress, which have been in use since World War I, students can compose a narrative about their military experience and help enrich the LOC's Veterans History Project. The instructor has developed a mobile phone-friendly writing platform that course participants can use. An IOS or Android phone with Internet connection is recommended.

*Recommended websites:* <https://www.wordsofveterans.com>; <https://www.loc.gov> (Veterans History Project)

**Alex Sebbly** is a third-generation U.S. military veteran. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 17, before graduating from high school in Minot, ND. During his enlistment, he worked as a combat illustrator, creating 2D and 3D artistic and illustrative products for various applications.

## 5064 Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady*

  Instructor: John Pfordresher

**Wednesday 12:00 - 1:30 PM**

**3/5 – 3/26**

**Sessions: 4; Location: Hybrid and Recorded**

Henry James's celebrated novel *The Portrait of a Lady* (1880–1881) will be read and discussed in four, roughly 120-page sections. Set in both England and Italy, this remarkable novel follows the experiences of a young and fairly wealthy American woman as she cares for friends and family members and seeks to define herself and achieve independence. James, remarkably, explores issues as relevant to our moment as to the era in which this book appeared, to widespread international acclaim.

*Recommended Reading:* Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady*. There are many fine editions of this novel from which participants can choose. The instructor will be using the Oxford World's Classics edition during our class sessions.

**John Pfordresher**, emeritus professor of English for Georgetown University, taught undergraduate and graduate courses in literature and cultural studies for 50 years. His most recent book, *The Secret History of Jane Eyre*, explores how Charlotte Brönte wrote her masterpiece. He has taught a series of Encore Learning courses and enjoys the challenge.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

## 5065 Plagues and Pandemics in Three Modern Novels

 Instructor: Iska Alter

Friday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

3/14 – 4/25 (No class 4/18)

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

From *Oedipus Rex* to the present, the fact as well as the idea of pandemic illness has been a component of literary representations as they dramatize the methodologies, techniques and decisions necessary for human survival. We will read:

- *The Plague* by Albert Camus, a broadly detailed portrayal of what happens when, with no cause or explanation, the plague strikes the Algerian city of Oran
- *Year of Wonder* by Geraldine Brooks, a narrative based on the history of a village in early modern England that chooses to close its borders to prevent the spread of the Black Death to the surrounding population
- *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue, a text that fictionalizes the consequences of the 1918 flu epidemic in a maternity hospital in Ireland

We will explore the ways in which these novels chronicle the problematics of individual action, construct the demands of communal behavior, and argue societal presumptions.

**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.

## REMEMBER

check [www.encorelearning.net](http://www.encorelearning.net) for the most up-to-date information!

## 5066 King Lear

  Instructor: Tom Manteuffel

Friday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

3/7 – 3/28

Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual and Recorded

Although Shakespeare's *King Lear* is a work about a pre-English king and is based partly upon Holinshed's *Chronicles*, this 1606 play is classed in the Folio collection as a tragedy, not a history play. It was also based in part on an earlier play, *King Leir and His Three Daughters*, author unknown, first printed in 1605.

We will look into how Shakespeare used and shaped his sources into one of his greatest tragedies, reading the text closely and watching selected sections in performance, with the goal of learning his purposes. *King Lear* explores for us the recurring themes of madness and age in what is perhaps Shakespeare's darkest yet most sublime work.

**Tom Manteuffel** has presented courses at Encore Learning covering a variety of topics, including Renaissance art, American art museums, Impressionism, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, Shakespeare's *King Henry IV, Part I* and the Book of Job. He holds graduate degrees in philosophy and computer science.

## 5067 American Storytellers 1872–2008

  Instructor: Janet Auten

Friday 10:00 – 12:00 PM

3/28 – 5/16 (No class 4/18)

Sessions: 7; Location: Virtual

Before there were books – or even writing – humans communicated ideas, beliefs and dreams through stories. In past classes, we talked about short stories as the perfect vehicle for women writers to examine and share their experiences and describe their reality in 19th and 20th century America. This course turns again to the short story and American women writers, but with a new theme: writers as storytellers.

Stories for this course appear in *The Oxford Book of American Short Stories* (2nd ed.), an affordable

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions continued

paperback anthology that features short fiction by American authors – women and men. Editor Joyce Carol Oates carefully selected less well-known works by well-known authors, from the 19th century sketches of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Sarah Orne Jewett to contemporary stories of Louise Erdrich and Jhumpa Lahiri.

Each of the seven weekly sessions will focus on a pair of women authors and draw on one or two stories by male authors to provide literary context and comparisons for our discussion. Starting with 19th century regional fiction and realism, moving to 20th century fiction from Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor and Oates herself, on into the 21st century, we will explore how and why these women made stories, and what they still mean for us today.

The class revolves around PowerPoint lectures on Zoom, but the instructor strongly encourages shared discussion in the chat function. There will also be time for open discussion at the beginning, at mid-class break, and at the close of each class.

*Recommended Reading: The Oxford Book of American Short Stories* (2nd ed.), edited by Joyce Carol Oates

**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 Women's 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.



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# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



## Science & Technology

### 6024 Electric Vehicles: Are They for You?

Instructor: Barry Ginsberg

**Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**3/5 – 4/2**

**Sessions: 5; Location: GMU**

Driving an electric-powered vehicle (EV) can be one of the most effective steps an individual can take to reduce their carbon footprint. Take this deep dive look at the difference between traditional internal combustion engine cars and modern electric vehicles.

The course will cover how cars work; an overview of EVs on the market today; range and efficiency; new safety features; self-driving; the impact of speed, temperature and resistance on an electric vehicle's range; where and how often to charge an EV; and using your EV as a source of electricity. The instructor will share information on models available now to help students decide whether to buy an electric vehicle and how to take advantage of federal tax incentives offered to encourage EV ownership. This is a repeat of a fall 2023 course, but material has been updated as the technology evolves and new electric vehicle models are introduced.

**Barry Ginsberg** developed a strong personal interest in electric vehicles during the pandemic and spent hundreds of hours learning about them. He has been driving an electric car for nearly three years. He previously worked as vice president for worldwide medical affairs at Becton Dickinson. Before that, he was a professor of medicine and biochemistry at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He attended the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he earned both his MD and PhD.

### 6031 Introduction to Spring Birding

Instructor: Multiple

**Tuesday Section: 10:00 – 11:30 AM 4/29 – 5/20**

**Thursday Section: 10:00 – 11:30 AM 5/1 – 5/22**

**Sessions: 4; Various Locations**

Spring is the peak time to observe many species of birds as they migrate north from their breeding grounds in Central and South America. Learn about local bird species in two sessions at two Arlington Nature Centers. Then put your learning into practice with experienced birders at Long Branch Nature Center and Four Mile Run. Because this course is so popular, Encore Learning is offering the course in two sessions: students may enroll in either the Tuesday or the Thursday session.

**Session 1: Raptors** (4/29 and 5/1) 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: Songbird ID and Adaptations** (5/6 and 5/8) Learn about local birds and those that migrate through our area in the spring. 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 the picnic shelter 1 (15–20-minute walk).

**Session 3: Birds of Long Branch** (5/13 and 5/15) Learn how to use binoculars and the apps available to aid birders. Then expert birders Colt Gregory and Rob Barnovsky will guide you around the park. Participants may bring their own binoculars or can borrow those available from the instructors. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center.

**Session 4: Birds of Four Mile Run** (5/20 and 5/22) Expert birders Kurt Moser and Colt Gregory will introduce you to the birds that frequent this diverse habitat. Meet at Four Mile Run parking lot, 3700 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria.

*Recommended Resources:* Cornell Lab of Ornithology: [www.birds.Cornell.edu](http://www.birds.Cornell.edu), free Merlin and eBird apps, [AllAboutBirds.org](http://AllAboutBirds.org) and [Audubon.org](http://Audubon.org) (binocular guide)

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions continued

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**Gabby Hrycyszyn**, 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 and trained at the Minnesota Raptor Center, the Linwood Springs Research Center 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** 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 park ranger for the National Park Service at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and was the first naturalist ever for the city of Jacksonville, FL. Locally, he has worked as a naturalist and natural resources specialist for Fairfax and Loudoun counties and has worked at Long Branch Nature Center for just over a year. 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 is often seen pulling up invasive plants to restore bird habitat and balance 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 Foundation, an organization that promotes nature, culture and community at lower Four Mile Run in Alexandria and Arlington. He also is an independent researcher/ecologist. He is 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.

## 6038 Understanding Climate Change and Solutions

 Instructor: Susan Perz

**Tuesday 12:00 - 1:30 PM**

**3/4 – 4/1**

**Sessions: 5; Location: Virtual and Recorded**

Climate change is an urgent concern for the United States and the world. This course will explain the causes of climate change; how it affects droughts, fires, storms and heat; and how it leads to increased food insecurity, disease, poverty, displacement and vulnerability for women and girls. With technology and political will, the world can accelerate the ongoing shift from fossil fuels to renewables by reducing fossil fuel use by half by 2030, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Class discussion will include climate “anchors” that protect us, including our physical and mental health. We will consider how climate change is affecting people in some of the most vulnerable areas of the world, e.g., Africa, South America, the Pacific Islands; and places in the United States like Louisiana's coastal areas, Florida, Alaska, California and New Mexico. We will learn why it is critically important to protect the Amazon rainforest, the Greenland ice sheet, the Thwaites Glacier and other key places. Equally important is the impact on our water cycles on land and on ocean currents.

The instructor will invite guest speakers and provide a research guide, including films, maps and readings with links to additional resources.

**Susan Perz** has a PhD in education, a bachelor's degree in journalism with courses in film, and master's/specialist degrees in marriage and family therapy. Her August 2024 documentary, *Saving Jaguars and Ourselves*, was screened at six film festivals. She has donated more than 100 short and documentary films to nonprofits over the past 20 years. At this time, her urgent focus is climate change.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



## Social Sciences

### 7013 The Mind-Body Problem and Contemporary Panpsychism

Instructor: Emmett Holman

Wednesday 12:00 - 1:30 PM

3/12 – 4/30

Sessions: 8; Location: GMU

Perhaps the hottest topic in philosophy these days is the mind-body problem. This is the problem of giving an account of the mind and its relationship to the body. Traditionally, there have been two views on this: physicalism, according to which the mind is (roughly) identical to the brain; and dualism, according to which the mind is non-physical, though connected (in some way) to the brain and body. Many think the debate between these two has reached an impasse, and as a result a third option, “panpsychism,” has emerged. According to panpsychism, consciousness, though at a very attenuated level, pervades the whole of nature and is not just a feature of brains. Panpsychism may seem like Stone Age thinking, but there are respectable arguments on its behalf. In this course we will look at the physicalist-dualist impasse and how panpsychism bids to break the impasse.

There will be recommended readings around which lectures will be organized. Details will be forthcoming a couple weeks before the course starts.

**Emmett Holman** taught philosophy at George Mason University for 45 years, retiring as associate professor emeritus in 2016. He has a BS in physics from Penn State University and a PhD in philosophy from the University of Maryland. While at GMU, he taught graduate level courses and published articles on the mind-body problem and philosophical issues in neuroscience as well as other areas.

### 7037 Wisdom of Important Texts from Five Traditions

Instructor: Dwight Rodgers

Thursday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

3/13 – 4/17

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

This class will discuss five short texts embodying different philosophical and religious traditions over 2,500 years of history. Each week, participants will read and discuss one text. The instructor will offer a brief introduction to the material and ask the class to explore questions about its history, meaning and relevance. What are the circumstances under which the text was written? How has the text been used since that time? How influential has it been? What in the text causes concern or raises important questions?

The six sessions will cover material that is freely available through Internet searches:

1. The United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*;
2. From the Hebrew Bible, *Proverbs 22:17 to 24:22* (“Sayings of the Wise”) and *Ecclesiastes/Qoheleth 9*;
3. From Buddhism, the *Four Noble Truths*;
4. From the Christian *New Testament*, the *Sermon on the Mount* (particularly *Matthew 5:1-11*);
5. From Islam, the *Five Pillars of Islam*; and
6. From modern Humanism, *Humanist Manifesto III*.

The instructor, who has come to appreciate wisdom from many traditions, will seek active discussion from class participants. The class is limited to 25 to promote a seminar atmosphere.

**Dwight Rodgers** has taught Encore Learning courses on Irish history, history of Christianity, Greek philosophies, and mindfulness practice. His academic work was largely in history, and his continuing interest has been the ongoing development of philosophical and religious traditions that seem to promote wisdom.

# Spring 2025 Course Descriptions continued

## 7038 Psychology's Presence in Your Life and Today's World

 Instructor: Janice McLean, PhD

Thursday 12:00 - 1:30 PM

3/20 – 4/24

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Say “psychology” and most people envision Sigmund Freud enjoying a cigar next to his famous couch. But psychology entails much more than that. It is the scientific study of how we think, behave, learn, interact with others, cope (or do not) with adversity and success, buy things we do not really need, remember (or forget) and even choose the Encore Learning courses we like best.

This new course will dive into the scholarly question: “What the heck *is* psychology and why should I care?”

1. We will examine the five ways in which individual and group behavior can be explained.
2. We will explore how psychologists do research (more interesting than you may think) and find design flaws in class examples.
3. We will learn how we learn and why successful post-traumatic stress disorder treatment owes much to Ivan Pavlov.
4. We will watch how seemingly good people can do terrible things and criminals can demonstrate heroism.
5. Finally, we will study the basics of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) and consider if there is *anyone* who **does not** have a mental health diagnosis.

The instructor will apply course material to settings of the courtroom, the workplace before and after Covid, the family, the clinician's office, the military and many others. Film clips, brain teasers and a guest speaker whose life was saved by strangers will also bring the material alive. There will be some fun in our exploration as well, and the resulting endorphin release will be beneficial to your mood, your health, and completely free of charge.

**Janice McLean**, PhD, is a retired clinical psychologist who taught at Ohio State University and practiced in hospital and group practice settings for 30 years. She is the co-author of *Phobias and Other Panic Victims* and a contributor to *The Successful Medical Student* and *The Counseling Sourcebook*.



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# Encore Learning Special Events & Clubs

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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](mailto: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 about cybersecurity, fixing Social Security, public education, saving cultural heritage sites in crisis, and many more. These virtual events are free and are usually scheduled from 3:00 to 4:30 PM on Monday afternoons. Please visit our YouTube channel for a more comprehensive list of previous Encore Learning Presents events, as well as recordings to view at your convenience. Go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for Encore Learning. Please note that not all Encore Learning Presents events are recorded.

### For Members: Tours of Museums, Historical Sights, and More

We also offer popular member group tours as a benefit of membership. Recent tours have included the Postal Museum, Planet Word Museum, National Portrait Gallery and National Museum of Women in the Arts.

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 and require current membership through the event date.

## 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](mailto: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 month 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.

# Board, Committee Members & Staff

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*Thank you to the Encore Learning*

Board • Academic Programs Committee • Publications Committee • Staff  
for all of the hard work and dedication in preparing for the Spring 2025 semester.



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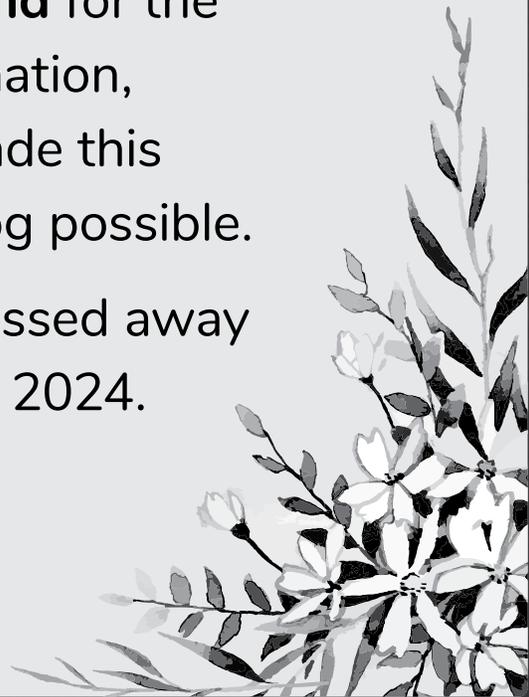




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Jack Royer passed away September 9, 2024.



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## **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](http://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 Spring 2025 Courses: Calendar View

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MORNING</b>	<p> Virtual classes are noted with the camera icon.</p> <p> In-Person classes are noted with the people icon.</p> <p> Hybrid classes include an option to register for either an in-person class at Mason or a virtual class on Zoom.</p> <p>For in-person course locations, check our online catalog.</p> <p> Recorded classes are noted with the microphone icon.</p>	<p> 10:00–11:30 AM <b>4058—Germany: Crucible of Europe's Future?</b> Lankowski 3/4 – 4/22</p>	<p> 10:00–11:30 AM 6024—Electric Vehicles Ginsberg CANCELLED</p>	<p> 10:00–11:30 AM <b>7037—Wisdom of Important Texts</b> Rodgers 3/13 – 4/17</p>	<p> 10:00–11:30 AM 1054—Saddle Up! The Horse in Art CANCELLED</p>
		<p> 10:00–11:30 AM 5060—Ekphrastic Poetry: Poems about Paintings CANCELLED</p>	<p> 10–11:30 AM <b>3082—Civil War in Washington and Beyond</b> Anbinder 3/5 – 5/7 <i>No Class 3/12 or 4/16</i></p>	<p> 10:00–11:30 AM <b>6031—Introduction to Spring Birding</b> Multiple 5/1 – 5/22</p>	<p> 10:00–12:00 PM <b>5067—American Storytellers 1872–2008</b> Auten 3/28 – 5/16 <i>No Class 4/18</i></p>
		<p> 10:00–11:30 AM 5061—African American Poetry CANCELLED</p>	<p> 10:00–11:30 AM <b>3079—History of Journalism in the US</b> Self 4/9 – 5/14</p>		<p> 10:00–12:00 PM <b>5004—Writing A Memoir</b> Suydam 4/4 – 5/16 <i>No Class 4/18</i></p>
		<p> 10:00–11:30 AM <b>6031 – Introduction to Spring Birding</b> Multiple 4/29 – 5/20</p>			
<b>NOON</b>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>3080—Arlington Metro-Urban Development</b> CANCELLED</p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>6038—Climate Change and Solutions</b> Perz 3/4 – 4/1</p>	<p> 12–1:30 PM <b>5064—Henry James's The Portrait of a Lady</b> Pfordresher 3/5 – 3/26</p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>3078—Civil War and Reconstruction</b> Gartman 3/6 – 5/1 <i>No Class 4/3</i></p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>5066—King Lear</b> Manteuffel 3/7 – 3/28</p>
	<p> 12:00–2:00 PM <b>3084—Renaissance in Rome</b> Wukitsch 3/3 – 5/12 <i>No Class 4/14</i></p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>4055—Congress: The First Branch</b> Rotondi 3/18 – 4/8</p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>7013—Contemporary Panpsychism</b> Holman 3/12 – 4/30</p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>7038—Psychology in Your Life and World</b> McLean 3/20 – 4/24</p>	
		<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>5062—Flannery O'Connor Short Stories</b> Sullivan 4/15 – 5/13</p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>1002—Theater Appreciation</b> Ohlandt 3/19 – 5/7 <i>No Class 4/16</i></p>	<p> 12:00–1:30 PM <b>2024—Planning For Changes</b> Wiley 4/3 – 5/8</p>	
<b>AFTERNOON</b>	<p> 2–3:30 PM <b>3083—Latin American Populism</b> Albro 3/3 – 4/7</p>	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>4047—Africa's Role in the 21st Century</b> Nagy 3/4 – 4/1 <i>No class 3/25</i></p>	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>1052—Ballet: Seeing More, Enjoying More</b> Bush 3/5 – 5/7 <i>No Class 4/23</i></p>	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>4004—Global Hot Spots</b> Multiple 3/6 – 4/3</p>	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>2025—Understanding Happiness in Our Encore Years</b> Joyce / Arciero 3/14 – 4/4</p>
	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>1053—Meeting the Bible Musically</b> Ruth 3/17 – 4/7</p>	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>3077—World War I, Western Culture &amp; Faith</b> O'Connor 3/4 – 5/6</p>	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>5058—Eight Modern British Poets</b> Collins 4/9 – 5/14 <i>No Class 4/16</i></p>	<p> 2:00–4:00 PM <b>4046—Intelligence Community 101</b> Wagner 3/27–5/1</p>	<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>5065—Novels of the Plague and Pandemics</b> Alter 3/14 – 4/25 <i>No Class 4/18</i></p>
		<p> 2:00–3:30 PM <b>3081—Arlington: Enslavement to Jim Crow</b> Multiple 4/15 – 5/13</p>		<p> 2:30–4:00 PM <b>4057—Democracy in America Now</b> Schneider 4/10 – 5/15</p>	
				<p> 3:00–4:30 PM <b>3003—Arlington History</b> VanNewkirk 3/27 – 5/15</p>	



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

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## Registration Begins at 10:00 AM Monday, February 3, 2025



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# Encore Learning Spring 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 23 years ago 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](http://www.encorelearning.net)  
[info@encorelearning.net](mailto:info@encorelearning.net)  
(703) 228-2144

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