

**Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute at UCSC**
January 2015
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A publication of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC (OLLI), a UCSC Friends Group.

Published September, November, January, March, and May. OLLI at UCSC is a community of men and women from diverse educational, occupational, and geographic backgrounds who are devoted to the pursuit of learning. We enjoy spirited discussion, reading, and exploring new interests. Money raised from our activities is used to fund scholarships for re-entry students at UCSC. Editor: Steve Zaslav, zaslav@comcast.net.



General Meeting, Sunday, January 18th, 10 a.m.

Stevenson College Event Center, UCSC

Speaker: Alan S. Christy
Associate Professor, East Asian Studies Director,
Co-Director, Center for the Study
of Pacific War Memories

2015 Courses

Our courses provide opportunities for our members to delve more deeply into fascinating subjects, hear from outstanding teachers, and have fun as well: no exams, no grades, but ample opportunities to participate in discussions.

The courses vary a great deal in length, but the donation we ask for each course is the same — \$20/person/course. Because the lecturers are not compensated (except for the pleasure of having truly interested and interesting students), your contributions are used for scholarships for re-entry and transfer students.

Whether you send in the registration form or register for the course on-line, you will receive an email confirming the registration. Later you will receive a letter from the university acknowledging your donation.

Some courses have limited enrollment. If you are registering on line, it's not possible to register for a course that's full. If you register with a mail-in form and request enrollment in a course that is full, you will get a phone call or email to discuss or to explain the situation. No-one will be charged for a course she or he is unable to enroll in. If your payment is by check, it will be returned to you.

There is a mail-in course registration form on page 7 of this newsletter and on our website at <http://ucsc-osher.wikispaces.com/classes>.

The following summarizes the courses on offer. You will find a more complete description of each course starting on page 2.

1507. George Bernard Shaw

Prof. John Dizikes
Four Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27
Museum of Art and History (MAH)
9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

1508. Stories of Philosophy

Prof. Bob Goff
Four Wednesdays,
Jan. 7, 14, 21 & 28
MAH, 10 to noon

1509. Classical music in a Time of World Chaos

Prof. Bob Kraft
830 Pine Tree Lane, Aptos.
Thirteen weeks, beginning Tuesday,
Jan. 13, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

1510. Dante's Divine Comedy: Purgatory

Prof. Margaret Brose
Six Tuesdays starting Feb. 3
MAH, 10 to noon

1511. Sweet and Low: Opera's Deeper Artistry

Miriam Ellis
Five Wednesdays, starting Feb. 4
MAH, 1 to 3 p.m.

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2015 Courses

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1512. Survey of Chinese Poetry

Prof. Dale Johnson
Four Thursdays starting Feb. 5
MAH, 10 to noon

1513. The Changing Position of the US in World Affairs: New Trends New Problems in the 21st Century

Prof. Ronnie Gruhn
Two Thursdays, Feb. 19 & 26
MAH, 2 to 4 p.m.

1514. Self-Justification and Self-Compassion

Prof. Elliot Aronson
Four Wednesdays,
March 4, 11, 18 & 25
Professor Aronson's home
136 Tree Frog Lane, Santa Cruz
1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

1515. Santa Cruz Shakespeare

Prof. Michael Warren
Three Thursdays,
March 5, 19 & 26
MAH, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

1516. Spring Birds Around Monterey Bay

Prof. Todd Newberry
Four Mondays, Apr. 6, 13, 20 & 27.
Front parking lot, UCSC Arboretum

1517. History of Writing

Prof. Gildas Hamel
Two Tuesdays, April 14 & 21
MAH, 10 a.m. to noon

1518. Fantastic Fictions

Prof. Helene Moglen
Four Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, & 23
MAH, 2 to 4 p.m.

Course Descriptions

1507) George Bernard Shaw. Prof. John Dizikes

Professor John Dizikes, Emeritus Professor of American Studies, will present four movies of Shaw's work, with discussion before and after the movies.

Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, and 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Museum of Art and History

1508) Stories of Philosophy: Prof. Bob Goff

Four illustrated sessions on vision, testimony, and the ethics of interpretation.

Professor Robert Goff is retired from UCSC where he taught philosophy for many years. In addition to courses in the standard philosophy curriculum, his seminar offerings included Comic Embodiment; Element, Thing, and Metaphor; Philosophical Autobiography; and Philosophy and the Holocaust. He has taught several fascinating class for OLLI.

There will be four sessions:

I. Ancient origins from myth and poetry: Heraclitus, Pythagoras, Sophocles, Zhuangzi, Socrates

II. Radical description: Descartes, Rembrandt, and Dr. Tulp ("The Anatomy Lesson")

III. Radical description, cont.: Heidegger on Van Gogh's shoes; Merleau-Ponty on Cezanne's apples; Kandinsky and Morandi on abstraction

IV. Philosophers' turns to folk narrative and aphorism: Hebel, Leskov, Nietzsche, Tolstoy, Brecht (Short non-technical readings will be available by e-mail prior to each session.)

Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Museum of Art and History

1509) Classical music in a Time of World Chaos, 1905–1960. Prof. Bob Kraft

Professor Robert Kraft is professor emeritus of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCSC. From 1970 to 1980, Prof. Kraft gave a Stevenson College course called Beethoven's Music. Many OLLI members have found that listening to music with Prof. Kraft's guidance has enhanced their appreciation and understanding of classical music.

A 13-week survey of music during the decline, yet partial survival of the Romantic ideal, in opera, symphony and chamber music. Works by such figures as Stravinsky, Bartok,

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R. Strauss, Schoenberg, Berg, Sibelius, Prokofiev, Vaughan Williams, Delius, Debussy, Ives, Copland, Hindemith, Walton, and Britten will be heard. Thirteen weekly three-hour sessions, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. will be held in Professor Kraft's home, 830 Pine Tree Lane, Aptos. First meeting: Tuesday, January 13.

The course is limited to 20 students.

1510) Dante's Divine Comedy: Purgatory.
Prof. Margaret Brose

Margaret Brose is Professor Emerita of Literature, UCSC. She has written widely on Italian Literature (from Dante, Petrarch, Leopardi, to Primo Levi); her book *Leopardi Sublime* won the Modern Language Association's Mararro prize for the best book in Italian Literary Studies (2000). She has been teaching Dante at UCSC for over 25 years.

In Dan Brown's thriller *Inferno* (NY Times best seller since May 2013), its protagonist, Professor Robert Langdon, declares in his lecture to the Dante Society in Vienna that "no single work of writing, art, music, or literature has inspired more tributes, imitations, variations, and annotations than *The Divine Comedy*."

This OLLI course will focus on *Purgatory*, the second book of *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri (1265–1321), a three-part epic poem about the poet's journey into the three realms of the afterlife (Inferno, Purgatory, Paradise). We will examine the innovative cosmological, ethical and psychological bases of Dante's afterlife, and read in-depth se-

lected episodes (*canti*) of *Purgatory*. We will explore Dante's emotional dialogues with the repentant sinners (classical heroes and heroines, popes and clerics, rival poets, and contemporaries of Dante), and trace Dante's own personal involvement with sin and purgation.

According to Dante, Purgatory is the place in which "the human spirit purges herself, and climbing to Heaven makes herself worthy." Dante's Purgatory consists of an island mountain, the only piece of land in the southern hemisphere. Divided into three sections, Ante-purgatory, Purgatory proper, and the Earthly Paradise, the lower slopes are reserved for souls whose penance had been delayed. The upper part of the mountain consists of seven terraces, each of which corresponds to one of the seven capital sins (Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth, Avarice, Gluttony, Lust). Atop the mountain Dante locates Eden, the Earthly Paradise, the place where the pilgrim is reunited with Beatrice, the woman who inspired the poem. Stay tuned for the culmination of the most unusual personal love story in world literature.

Dante had journeyed through the *Inferno* with the Roman poet Virgil, author of the *Aeneid*. Virgil is a long-time inhabitant of Hell (he has been in Limbo since his death in 19 BCE), and thus was able to guide Dante skillfully through the 9 circles of *Inferno*. However, both Dante and Virgil are first-time visitors to Purgatory. That Virgil, a Pagan poet, is allowed to climb the seven terraces of Mt. Purgatory, and to reach the Earthly paradise (Eden) is but one of the many ways Dante confers upon Virgil a prophetic and almost-Christian status.

Most people assume that Hell is the most riveting part of the *Divine Comedy*; after all, who does not enjoy the gruesome portrayal of sin and its appropriate punishments? But in many respects, *Purgatorio* is even more original and daring than the *Inferno*; its descriptions of the landscapes and various forms of purgation are virtually without precedent. There is a long tradition (both Western and Eastern) of stories of people purporting to have visited Hell and Heaven. But no one before Dante had ever traveled to Purgatory; indeed, the existence of Purgatory itself was only affirmed as Church doctrine in 1274. Dante's *Purgatory* was the first and remains today the most influential written account of this middle realm of the afterlife. Why Purgatory becomes essential to Church doctrine in the 13th century will be a central focus of the class.

All OLLI members are welcome; having read the *Inferno* is not a "prerequisite" to reading *Purgatory*.

Recommended Text: "The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri: Purgatory," trans. and ed. by Robert Durling & Ronald Martinez (NY & Oxford; Oxford UP, 2003). ISBN 0-19-508741-0. This is a wonderful, prize-winning bilingual text, with excellent notes, translated by UCSC Prof. Emeritus of Literature Robert Durling. It should be available in used copies at Logos, Bookshop Santa Cruz, and Amazon.

Tuesdays, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, and 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Museum of Art and History.

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2015 Courses

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1511) Sweet and Low: Opera's Deeper Artistry. Miriam Ellis

Miriam Ellis has been teaching classes at UCSC in French, opera, theater, and literature for over thirty years. Miriam is the founder and guiding light of the very successful International Playhouse performances each May.

This course will be devoted to the mezzo, contralto, baritone, and basso voice categories, with representative arias and works that illustrate these voice types. We will explore many styles, ranging from the Baroque to Verismo, interpreted by leading artists and composers. Among the latter, we'll consider works by Monteverdi, Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi, Bizet, Massenet, Cilea, and more.

Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Museum of Art and History.

1512) Survey of Chinese Poetry. Prof. Dale Johnson

Dale Johnson is Emeritus Professor of Chinese Literature.

Professor Johnson will continue his ongoing OLLI exploration of the remarkable poetry of China. This course will focus on Chinese Poetry from 2500 BCE to 1200 CE.

Thursdays, Feb 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Museum of Art and History.

Texts of poetry will be emailed to participants.

1513) The Changing Position of the US in World Affairs: New Trends, New Problems in the 21st Century. Professor Ronnie Gruhn

ISIS, Putin, China, the Weakening of International Institutions (UN and EU, etc.), Climate Change and other phenomena have in recent years altered the nature of the international system. US Foreign Policy and America's influence and role is also changing. This course will seek to address what is going on in 2014–15 that is new and different with a focus on what the US role in the new world disorder seems to be, ought to be, and can be.

Professor Gruhn has a passionate and undiminished interest in reading, writing, and talking about world affairs. Her courses offer powerful insights into what is happening today.

Thursdays, February 19 and 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Art and History.

1514) Self-Justification and Self-Compassion. Prof. Elliot Aronson

Professor Elliot Aronson is an Emeritus Professor of Social Psychology, UCSC. He is listed among the 100 most eminent psychologists of the 20th Century.

Self-justification is one of the most prevalent and powerful of human motivations. As fallible human beings, we all share the impulse to justify our

decisions and actions and avoid taking responsibility for any that turn out to be harmful, mindless, stupid, or wrong.

For most of us in our everyday lives, the self-justifications we come up with to soften our blunders and help us live with bad decisions are harmless, but self-justification also lies at the root of much human malevolence, cruelty, hypocrisy, and corruption. Understanding how it works offers an answer to the question so many people ask when they look at ruthless dictators, greedy corporate CEOs, religious zealots who murder in the name of God, parents who humiliate their children, or adults who cheat their siblings out of a family inheritance: "How in the world can they live with themselves?"

This is a seminar—meaning that students will be expected to participate in class discussions.

This course will take place at Professor Aronson's home, 136 Tree Frog Lane, Santa Cruz, on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

1515) Santa Cruz Shakespeare. Prof. Michael Warren

Professor Michael Warren is emeritus professor of literature at UCSC and has been a consultant to Shakespeare S.C. since its inception.

We are fortunate to again have Prof. Michael Warren, a very knowledgeable and vastly entertaining Shake-

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2015 Courses

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speare scholar presenting a course for us. His Shakespeare courses for OLLI for the previous five years have been enthusiastically praised by our members.

The two plays that Santa Cruz Shakespeare will be presenting this year are “Much Ado About Nothing” and “Macbeth.” These plays will be the focus of Professor Warren’s course.

Thursdays, March 5, 19, and 26, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Please note: no class on March 12.). At the Museum of Art and History.

Professor Warren requests that students read the first four acts of “Much Ado About Nothing” before the first class.

1516) Spring Birds Around Monterey Bay. Prof. Todd Newberry

Professor Todd Newberry, a UCSC professor emeritus, lifelong bird-watcher, and author of “The Ardent Birder,” has again agreed to teach his very popular lifelong birdwatching class, Spring Birds around Monterey Bay. Todd emphasizes how to look for and listen to birds, and you will finish the class with a new awareness of the natural world. It will involve easy walking, but a considerable amount of standing absolutely still. If this is a problem, bring a small folding chair. Also, remember to bring binoculars. The class will meet on Monday mornings promptly at 8:00 a.m. on April 6, 13, 20, and 27. The first class will meet in the front park-

ing lot of the UCSC Arboretum, and Todd will arrange meeting places for subsequent classes.

This class is limited to 12 students.

1517) History of Writing. Prof. Gildas Hamel

Professor Gildas Hamel was born in Brittany; he taught high school in Jerusalem in 1966-68 while attending courses at the École Biblique where he fell in love with scholarship. He became an instructor in French at UCSC in 1974, got a Ph.D. in History of Consciousness in 1983, and continued to teach French as well as classical languages and history.

This illustrated course will present the extraordinary systems of writing that appeared several thousand years ago in Sumer, Egypt, China, and the Americas. Why did certain societies tend to represent the flow of ideas and objects while others were more disposed to point to the stream of sounds? What were they particularly keen on representing? What were the religious, economic, and political aspects of writing? How did the notion of Scripture develop together with writing? We will pursue the parallel stories of these systems and give particular attention to the long history of alphabetic scripts, from Proto-Canaanite to our modern computer keyboards.

Tuesdays, April 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Museum of Art and History.

1518) Fantastic Fictions. Prof. Helene Moglen

Fantastic fictions expose the illusions of realism through nightmarish representations of middle-class society. Revealing culture’s deep anxiety about families, sexuality, religion, science, and the self, they enact—through character and narrative form—their ambivalence about gender, class and racial identities. Texts are Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, R.L. Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and either Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* or Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.

Professor Emerita Helene Moglen is a literary feminist psychoanalytic critic. At UCSC, she was Professor of Literature and Dean of Humanities. She has published books in literary studies and was selected as the first woman ever to give the UCSC Emeriti Lecture. At our meeting last May, she gave a very well-received talk, “From *Frankenstein* to Facebook.” At that time, many of our members were hoping she would teach a course for us.

The class is limited to 20 students. Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Art and History.

OLLI Online: Steady Progress

As you know, we are steadily working to have our membership and course sign ups available to all members online. Despite a few glitches and bumps as we work with our partners at the university, many OLLI members now have a login and permanent password that allows them to register for courses and manage their address and phone and email information. We use this information to make up name badges, mail newsletters, and produce our annual membership directory.

If you haven't yet gotten a password, I urge you to go to our website and click on the link that reads: "I've renewed for 2014-15 but need a username and password." Follow the instructions that you see. Unfortunately the process requires an intermediary step of requesting an account from UCSC. They will send you an email

in a few days with a link to a page where you can change the temporary password they send you to a permanent one that you will use whenever you want to sign up for an OLLI activity.

Please let me know at mgordon@cruzio.com if anything is unclear or something doesn't seem to work. Our OLLI Tech Team is determined to solve every problem.

You may still sign up for courses and membership renewal using a paper form and sending a check or credit card number through the U.S. Mail to STARS at UCSC. The form is available for download on our OLLI website (<http://ucsc-osher.wikispaces.com>) and on the facing page.

Thank you for your patience during our digital transition.

Mark Gordon

OLLI at UCSC Home Page

The screenshot shows the OLLI at UCSC Home Page. A callout box with a magnifying glass highlights a link in the left sidebar that reads: "I've Renewed for 2014-15 But Need a Username & Password". The main content area includes the OLLI logo, contact information (1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, 831-459-2552), a Facebook link, and several navigation links such as "New Member", "Join OLLI", "OLLI Members: Renew Your Membership", "Click here for contacts for help with OLLI at UCSC issues", "Next General Meeting", "On-Line Reading For Seniors", "Add Interest-Group Program to My Membership", "Change My Address, Phone, or Email", and "Donate to the Silvia Miller Scholarship Fund". A photo of a general meeting is also visible.

<http://ucsc-osher.wikispaces.com>

New Interest Group: Spanish Conversation

The focus of this group is conversational Spanish and everyday vocabulary. The leader, Dolores McCabe, first learned Spanish as a child from farm workers and later earned a BA and teaching credentials in Spanish. She retired after 41 years of teach-

ing Spanish and has led many student trips to Mexico and Spain.

The goal is to create an interest group where enthusiasm for Spanish language and Spanish speaking people drive our meetings. Email your preferences for time and place to

Dolores McCabe, dmccabe47@gmail.com, and also mention if you have a meeting place to suggest. Meetings would be 1½ to 2 hours each for greatest benefit, and please say if you prefer to meet once or twice a week.

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