

Fall 2018 Courses

1901 - World Affairs 2018

September 25, October 16, November 13 10-12 in the morning
Fellowship Hall, Peace United Church of Christ 900 High Street
Instructor: Ronnie Gruhn

We are again fortunate to have Ronnie Gruhn, Professor Emerita of Politics at UCSC, as one of our teachers. She has a passionate and undiminished interest in reading, writing, and talking about world affairs. Her courses offer powerful insights into what is happening today. Ronnie has been very generous in sharing her knowledge with OLLI members, and her courses have been exceedingly well attended.

This year she will be talking about US foreign policy, foreign policy making, international trade policy, global immigration issues, and who knows what else will come up?

Please try to car pool if possible. The great crowd makes parking difficult.

1902 - God in the Scientific Universe

October 1, 8, 15, 22 10-noon
Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front Street
Instructor: Nancy Ellen Abrams

The scientific revolution of today is bringing us closer than ever before to the possibility of a coherent and meaningful Big Picture, in which we can bring our full selves – our daily lives and problems, our growing scientific and historical knowledge, our spiritual longings and values, our origin story, and our sense of place in the universe – into harmony. To succeed, we need a way to think about God that supports, rather than thwarts, this harmony. Reasoning from what the new picture of the universe tells us is possible, and from what history tells us we humans need, we can find a new way of thinking about God that expands us as individuals and could unify us as a species. No scientific background required. Just a willing suspension of disbelief.

1903 - Music and Politics in San Francisco: From the 1906 Quake to the Second World War.

October 20, 27, November 10, 17 (Saturdays) 10–noon
Location: UCSC Music Center (at the Performing Arts complex), Room 131
Instructor: Leta Miller

The quarter-century from the disastrous 1906 earthquake to the start of the Second World War saw the establishment of the major musical institutions we now think of as central to San Francisco's classical music scene: the SF Symphony, Opera, Ballet, and Conservatory. These institutions took shape in an atmosphere of controversy, racism, and political struggle, counterbalanced by a widely-held utopian vision. The four sessions of this brief survey explore San Francisco's musical life in this crucial period. Lectures will be enhanced by numerous slides as well as aural examples, including some rare historical recordings. No musical training is required.

1. The Politics of Class: The Birthing Pains and Early Struggles of the San Francisco Symphony
2. Opera: People's Music or a Playground for the Rich? The Two-decade Struggle to Erect the Nation's First Municipally-owned Opera House
3. Labor and Exclusion: Racial Discrimination in the San Francisco Musicians' Union
4. Exoticism and Utopia: Chinatown, Forbidden and Alluring; the Embracing Idealism of the San Francisco Conservatory.

Leta Miller, Professor of Music Emerita at UCSC, has received numerous teaching awards from the Arts Division and the Academic Senate's Committee on Teaching. She has published widely on music in the twentieth century, including her 2011 book on the topic of this lecture series. Miller has also authored two books on composer and local icon Lou Harrison, as well as a study of the music of Pulitzer-Prize-winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis. In more than twenty articles, Miller has explored various aspects of music in San Francisco; the philanthropy of Phoebe Apperson Hearst (mother of William Randolph Hearst); and the works of Lou Harrison, John Cage, Henry Cowell, and Charles Ives. Her earlier research focused on the flute music of CPE Bach and French secular music of the renaissance.

Parking is available in the Performing Arts Complex lot, where there will be a charge for parking. Be sure to bring a handicapped placard if you have one.

1904 - What is Film Noir?

October 24, 31, November 7, 14 9:30-12:30 in the morning

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St

Instructor: Bill Park

Was Film Noir a cycle, a movement, a mood, a genre, or as some have argued, an afterthought that has no substantial reality in the Hollywood of the '40s and '50s? The course will investigate this question through an examination of four films oft-cited as examples of this alleged type: *Double Indemnity* (1944); *Out of the Past* (1947); *In A Lonely Place* (1950); and a late candidate, *Vertigo* (1958). In this examination, we will consider Film Noir's sources and predecessors; its relationship to the studio system, the production code, World War II and its aftermath; as well as its representations of gender and its stellar directors and actors. If the course does not solve the case, hopefully it will open it up for further discussion and enjoyment.

Suggested reading:

Foster Hirsch, *The Dark Side of the Screen* (Da Capo Press; 3rd edition, 2008)

Eddie Muller, *Dark City: The Lost World of Film Noir* (St. Martin's Press, 1998)

James Naremore, *More than Night: Film Noir in Its Contexts*(University of California Press, 2008)

William Park, *What Is Film Noir?* (Bucknell University Press, 2011)

Bill Park is an Emeritus Professor of Literature at Sarah Lawrence College, where he taught for many years. He received his PhD in Eighteenth Century English Literature from Columbia

University. He has written extensively about literature and film. We are fortunate that he has moved to Santa Cruz and is eager to share his knowledge with us.

1905 - Chinese Poetry

November 1, 8, 15, 29, December 6, 12 10-12 in the morning

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St.

Instructor: Dale Johnson

Dale Johnson was Professor of Chinese at both Oberlin College and UCSC. He had engagingly shared his love for and knowledge of Chinese literature in OLLI courses for the past five years.

1906 - The 3Rs of Retirement: Read, Reflect and Re-Invent

November 16 and 30, December 7 10:00a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Location: 320 Keystone Ave. in Santa Cruz

Instructors: Jill Steinberg, Ph.D., Wendy Harrison and Donna Baldini

Please note special enrollment instructions at the end of the class description.

When thinking about successful retirement, most people and the research literature focus on financial planning. Although having enough financial resources is necessary, it doesn't by itself lead to a successful retirement. Instead of emphasizing financial preparedness, this course deals with the personal and interpersonal factors in creating a successful retirement. We will:

- Identify the key factors associated with retirement adjustment and happiness.
- Discuss how retirement impacts men and women differently and explore issues affecting couples and individuals “going solo” as well as some ways to resolve issues
- Discuss how to find one's purpose.
- With all that one learns and the resources earned, one can have a successful retirement, but without reflection and planning, one's retirement can be disappointing.
- This course will involve some readings to prepare us for a thoughtful discussion so that we can learn from each other – whether we are enjoying our retirement or planning for one, we can mentor each other so that we each can have the best retirement possible.

Jill Steinberg is an OLLI member, Emeritus Professor, SJSU, Clinical Psychologist, Author and founder of MyRetirementWorks.com. *Jill is also teaching this class for Boston University, live online.* You can contact Jill through her website or at: jillasteinberg@gmail.com

Wendy Harrison is an OLLI member and a recently retired teacher who worked in special education for the Santa Cruz COE. She is interested in exploring what makes retirement a success

Donna Baldini is an OLLI member, following a long career at UCSC where she coordinated an internship program. A long time Santa Cruz resident, she is currently an instructor for a service learning course at UCSC and is enjoying her third year of semi-retirement

Enrollment in this class is limited to 12 OLLI members. To enroll please e-mail Jill at jillasteinberg@gmail.com. (No phone calls, please) She will send enrollment coupons to the first 12 people who e-mail her. To enroll in the class you are required to send in your payment with the coupon. People who have already taken the class are welcomed.

1907 - Modern Molecular Biology – 2018

Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13 10:30am -12pm.

Location: Physical Science Building, Room 240

Instructors: Barry Bowman, Susan Carpenter and Lindsay Hinck

A typical animal cell contains more than 40,000 different kinds of molecules. In the last 20 years great progress has been made in understanding how these molecules combine and interact to form a living creature. In this course four UCSC Professors will talk about recent discoveries in molecular biology. This years' topics focus on proteins that play a central role in development of Alzheimers disease, the role of stem cells in normal and abnormal growth of breast tissue, and the function of novel RNA molecules in regulating the response of our immune system.

These talks are intended for a general audience. A scientific background or knowledge of biology is not expected. Professor Barry Bowman, the course coordinator, will begin with a basic review of genes, proteins and cells. This will be followed by talks that focus on specific topics in molecular biology, as described below.

All classes will be presented on Saturday mornings at 10:30 – 12:00 AM on the UCSC campus. Free parking is available at the Core West Parking Structure and classes will meet in the Physical Science Building, Room 240.

15 September - Barry Bowman: An Introduction to Genes, Proteins and Cells

22 September - Barry Bowman: Can a Pill Really Make Us Smarter?

29 September - Susan Carpenter: The role of Long Noncoding RNA in the Innate Immune System

6 October - Jeremy Lee: Using Fruit Flies to Study Alzheimer's disease

13 October - Lindsay Hinck: The Role of Stem Cells in Development of the Breast

1908 – Espresso - Fall 2018, Spring 2019

September 6, October 25, November 1, March 14, 21 10-12 in the morning

Location: Music Room, Peace United Church 900 High Street

Instructor: Michel Singher

OLLI's special relationship with Maestro Michel Singher and his ensemble — Espresso — A Small Intense Orchestra — will continue this Fall. Our members have been thrilled with hearing Maestro Singher's brilliant explications of the works before attending his concerts.

September 6: Two related Masters: Bach and Stravinsky

October 25, November 1: Three hands on the wheel--Arrangements
March 14, 21: Heart and Brain---Romantics and Reaction

1909 – Spotlight Returns!

November 19, 26, December 3 and 10, 10-12 in the morning

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St.

Instructor: Margot Hoffman

Come join us for this series of workshops; explore the technical, performance, and literary aspects of theater. A little theater history & literature, theater practice & performance and of course theater games. This class is designed with the students' interests and input in mind with the overall goal to understand theatrical theories, tools and applications. Break out of your shell, try something new, find your voice on the stage and have fun with new friends.

Margot Hoffman is a teacher and professional music artist from Santa Cruz, California. She has taught theater, art, and poetry in both schools and jails, as well as being fortunate enough to work with Osher's Life Long Learner's for the past two years. Today, she works with adults at the Career Advancement Charter School in Watsonville, as well as being a board member of the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County.

Spring 2019 Courses

1910 – The Beauty of Mathematics: Non-Euclidian Geometries and Other Wondrous Geometric Objects

January 2019 14, 21, 28 and Feb 4 10-noon.

Location: MAH 705 Front Street

Instructor: Peter Farkas

In this class we take a historical view of Euclid's Elements, and discuss the geometries that come up in this context, namely the Euclidian geometry, and the two common non-Euclidian geometries (hyperbolic and elliptic). My aim is to provide some insight that clears up the mystery often associated with these fancy names. We will take frequent detours to present and admire various geometric objects or spaces. These lectures will be mostly descriptive, with fewer proofs than in my previous classes. Like before, I will have asides and historical notes. The only prerequisite for this class is curiosity about these topics. No special knowledge beyond middle school mathematics will be assumed.

I started out as a mathematician with a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Bucharest, Romania, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. I started an academic career as a mathematician but swerved at some point and became a software engineer. Throughout my software engineering career, my love and awe for mathematics persisted, and now, in retirement, I am returning to it.

1911 – Vital Supporting Roles in Opera - Cancelled

January 31, February 7, February 21, February 28, March 7 1-3 in the afternoon

Location: Lounge, Peace United Church, 900 High St

Instructor: Miriam Ellis

In addition to the prima donnas and primo tenores who become international stars and command impressive fees, so-called "secondary" characters are crucial to the plot and to development of the protagonists with whom they interact. Indeed, there are many such characters who are more impressive and make stronger connections with audiences than do the leading actors. We will examine the relationship, function, and contributions of the "second bananas" to plot and characterization in several of the most popular and some lesser-known operas of the 18th to 20th century, by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Bellini, Donizetti, Gounod, Bizet, and others. Arias, duets, ensembles, and scenes from relevant works will illustrate the importance of these roles dramatically and musically in the most complex and inclusive of art forms. We welcome anyone with an interest in learning more about how the intriguing, inspiring, and challenging puzzle of "drama through music" fits together.

Miriam Ellis, Ph.D., has been offering OLLI courses for many years and specializes in opera appreciation and translation. Her latest book (with Professor Emeritus Sherwood Dudley) is a new translation of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, in a bilingual vocal score that features optional dialogue in English, drawn from *Le mariage de Figaro* by Beaumarchais. Thus, recitatives and/or set pieces can be replaced by spoken text, thereby amplifying certain details, and shortening the length of the production.

1912 - Old Problems, New Issues In International Affairs

February 5, March 5, APRIL 9 10-12 in the morning

Location: Fellowship Hall, Peace United Church of Christ 900 High Street

Instructor; Ronnie Gruhn

We are again fortunate to have Ronnie Gruhn, Professor Emerita of Politics at UCSC, as one of our teachers. She has a passionate and undiminished interest in reading, writing, and talking about world affairs. Her courses offer powerful insights into what is happening today. Ronnie has been very generous in sharing her knowledge with OLLI members, and her courses have been exceedingly well attended.

1913 - Santa Cruz Shakespeare

March 12, 19, 26, April 2 10-12 in the morning

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front Street

Instructor: Michael Warren

Michael, a very knowledgeable and entertaining Shakespeare scholar, will discuss with us the two plays that Santa Cruz Shakespeare will be presenting next summer. Over the years our members have found that taking this class greatly enhances their understanding and enjoyment of the plays.

Professor Warren is emeritus professor of literature at UCSC and Textual Consultant and Dramaturg to Santa Cruz Shakespeare since its inception, earlier as Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

1914 - "No More Mammies" - an overview of African American playwrights

February 6, 13, 20, 27 10-noon

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front Street

Instructor: Aimee Zygmanski

This course is designed to engage students in a sampling of dramatic literature from mainly female African American playwrights. Through close readings of various plays, lively discussion, and supplemental materials, we will discuss how race, gender, and stereotype operate within the texts as well as interrogate the intersections of race and performance in the everyday.

Aimee Zygmanski has led a dual life as an arts administrator and theater educator, both in the performing arts and academia. She holds a PhD from UC San Diego in theater history and criticism with a focus on contemporary African American women playwrights. She taught at UC San Diego, Univ of Nevada Las Vegas, and UC Santa Cruz and worked at The Public Theater, Roundabout Theater Company, La Jolla Playhouse, and currently, Santa Cruz Shakespeare.

1915 - John Ford's West

April 1, 8, 15, 22 9:30am to 12:30pm

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St.

Instructor: Bill Park

John Ford, Hollywood's most honored director, worked in many genres--as varied as *The Informer*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Quiet Man*. But Ford is best known for his more than five decades of work in the western. Although the western is the original Hollywood genre—the one that attempts to explain the myth of America--many sophisticated critics look down upon it. Westerns invariably deal, however superficially, in the very basic issue of law and order. In his post World War II westerns, Ford so deeply explores this issue that the films become a commentary on civilization and its discontents. These consist of the problems of inclusion, racism, and the relationship of society to violence. This course will examine four of these films: *My Darling Clementine* (1946), *Fort Apache* (1948), *The Searchers* (1956)—thought to be the best Western and among the best films ever made—and finally *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962)

Bill Park is an Emeritus Professor of Literature at Sarah Lawrence College, where he taught for many years. He received his PhD in Eighteenth Century English Literature from Columbia University. He has written extensively about literature and film. We are fortunate that he has moved to Santa Cruz and is eager to share his knowledge with us. Our members who attended his class on Film Noir were impressed by his encyclopedic knowledge of film.

1916 - Spotlight Returns

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 5 10am-12pm

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St.

Instructor: Margot Hoffman

Come join us for this series of workshops; explore the technical, performance, and literary aspects of theater. A little theater history & literature, theater practice & performance and of course theater games. This class is designed with the students' interests and input in mind with the overall goal to understand theatrical theories, tools and applications. Break out of your shell, try something new, find your voice on the stage and have fun with new friends.

This season professional guest artists will be joining us for mini workshops on things such as but not limited to: auditions, character technical theater, play analysis, Chicano theater. Additionally, I intend to delve more into alternative theater movements and techniques (that is outside of realism).

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1917 - Food and Biochemistry

Mar 9, 16, 23, 30 10:30am -12:00pm

Location: Physical Sciences Building, Room 240, UCSC campus

Instructor: Barry Bowman

The food we eat is a complex mix of thousands of different kinds of chemicals. However, most of these chemicals can be put into a few simple categories, e.g. fats, carbohydrates and proteins. In this course we will see how the human body uses these chemicals and converts them into living tissue or into energy. We will explore questions like “Why does fat have more calories than sugar, and what is a calorie”? What are vitamins and what do they do in our bodies? What is difference between LDL and HDL carriers of cholesterol?

Participants are not expected to have a background in science. The content of the course will be largely the same as in previous years, but those who wish to participate again are welcome.

Barry Bowman is Professor Emeritus of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology at UCSC

1918 – Mazel by Rebecca Goldstein

June 11, 13, 18 and 20 10am-12pm

Location: Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St.

Instructor: Murray Baumgarten and Peter Kenez

Rebecca Goldstein's novel, *Mazel*, is her great work; it is a philosophical novel, which covers more than a century of Jewish/Western culture, by telling the stories of four generations. It moves from the mid-nineteenth century Shtetl, to Emancipation, and the new opportunities it provided, including the migration to European cities, and immigration to the new world and how that provided a new arena for Jewish action. The role of the theatre is central throughout, and we know that Rebecca Goldstein worked with the Yiddish translations/performances of Shakespeare -- especially King Lear and Hamlet. Her novel works through the different genres of modern Jewish writing,

it is a prizewinning novel and helped her receive a MacArthur Award

Murray will be talking about narrative strategies, feminism, and character in *Mazel as well as the* literary history of Jewish writing. Peter will inform us on the background--the Shtetl, the Haskalah, Urbanization, and Immigration.

You may want to start reading *Mazel* before the class begins.