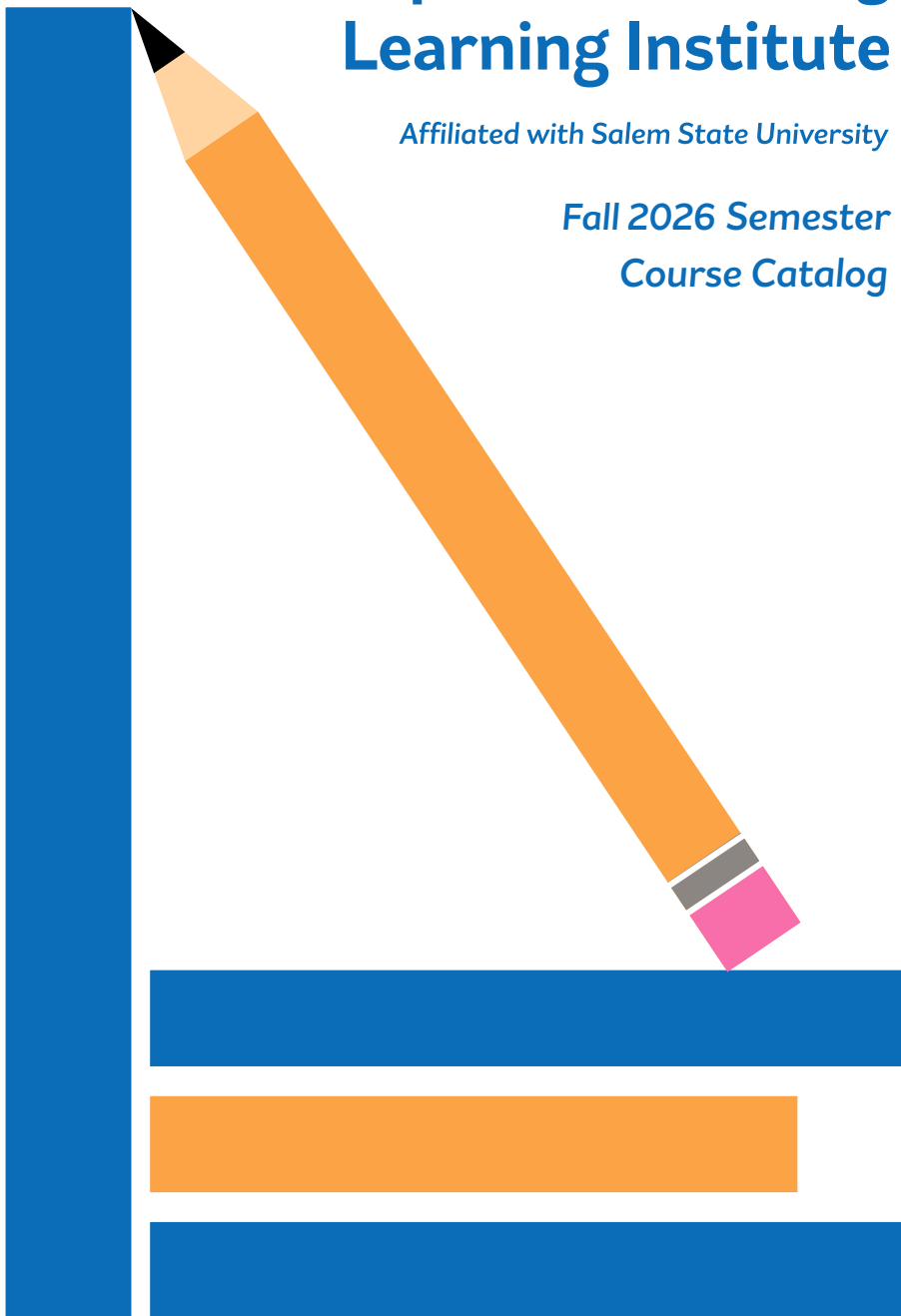


Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute

Affiliated with Salem State University

*Fall 2026 Semester
Course Catalog*



Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute
Affiliated with Salem State University

10 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 10, SALEM, MA 01970
978.744.0804

FALL SEMESTER 2026

The Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) is a member-directed learning group, one of over 400 such organizations in the United States and Canada. Since 1992, seniors in the greater Salem community, with diverse backgrounds, have joined Explorers by paying a membership fee.

Members and presenters join in active peer learning to share their knowledge and experience by creating, coordinating and participating in courses on a voluntary basis. We provide programs that are challenging, thought-provoking, sometimes controversial and frequently interactive. These vary in length from a day to a semester; range in format from lectures and discussions to hands-on workshops; and cover diverse topics.

- The Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute offers two semesters a year, beginning in September and March. **Members may enroll in as many courses as they like, subject to availability.** Courses meet for one and one half to two hours, either mornings or afternoons. Classes are held Monday through Friday. Between semesters there are Intersession programs which are presented each Wednesday and are open to members and the general public, free of charge.

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE NOTE: 12 MONTH AND 6 MONTH OPTIONS.
MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE.

July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (2 semesters)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| - Single Membership | \$350 |
| - Domestic Partner | \$625 |

July 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 (1 semester)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| - Single Membership | \$200 |
| - Domestic Partner | \$355 |

Make check payable to: Explorers LLI

**Send completed form and check to: Explorers LLI,
10 Federal Street, Suite 10, Salem, Massachusetts 01970**

Register with credit card or PayPal online: explorerslli.org

Fee reductions are available based on need. Your request will remain confidential and should be mailed to:

Fee Reduction Committee, c/o Explorers LLI,
10 Federal Street, Suite 10
Salem, MA 01970

Explorers Center

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2026 FALL SCHEDULE

Only Members Are Eligible to Register for Courses.

MONDAY

101 Everyday Law for Successful Living

Zoom Only

Monday 9-11 am

Class Leader: **Andrea AJ. Witt, Esq., CELA (Spano Dawicki & Witt, LLC)**

September 14, 28; October 5, 19; November 2, 9, 16, 23

This seminar focuses on everyday legal issues and solutions that seniors should reflect upon and consider to ensure that they remain in control of their financial and health care decisions, and to protect themselves and their assets. Each 2-hour long session will offer lecture, group discussion and case presentation with detailed focus on a particular area.

1. Essential Estate Planning Documents
2. Trusts: What They Are, What They Can and Cannot Accomplish and How They Can be an Indispensable Part of Your Estate Plan
3. So, You've Drafted an Estate Plan...Now What?
4. Administering an Estate Through Probate and Why and How to Avoid the Process Entirely
5. Real Estate 101: Best Tips and Practices for Both the Buyer and the Seller
6. Navigating the Guardianship and Conservatorship Processes
7. The Spend-Down Scheme: What the Nursing Home Won't Tell You About Protecting Your Assets
8. Asset Protection: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Participants should complete the course with a better understanding of their legal rights, estate planning options, and how to protect their loved ones and their assets.

Course Format: Lecture with PowerPoint slides, group discussion and dialogue

102 The Four Pillars of Twentieth-Century Counseling and Psychotherapy

Monday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Evan Longin**

September 14, 28; October 5, 19

In each of four weeks we will discuss one of the four major threads in contemporary counseling and psychotherapy.

- Week One: Freudian and neo–Freudian Theory.
- Week Two: Client Centered and Humanistic Psychology.
- Week Three: Communications Theory.
- Week Four: Family Systems Theory.

Course Format: Present PowerPoint presentations showing the major theorists in each category then discuss the pros and cons of each theory.

103 Film Club

Limited to 20

Monday 9:30–11 am

Class Leaders: **Rick Cacace and Mary Jo Wagner**

September 14, 28; October 5, 19; November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; December 7

Course will consist of five 2 week units in which we will watch a movie one week and discuss that movie the next week.

Course Format: In-person discussion

104 Understanding Competitive Markets

Simulcast

Monday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Anne Waymouth**

November 2, 9

The course will be two sessions. One class will cover Adam Smith and how the invisible hand that regulates markets works. The next class will cover market failures and how anti-trust regulation prevents market failures.

Course Format: Lecture with opportunity for discussion, questions and answers.

Required books or supplies: None. I will provide handouts with outlines of the discussion topics.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **Course listings are in-person unless specified as a remote offering by the course's facilitator.**

105 Explorers Book Group

Zoom Only

Monday 10–11 am

Class Leader: **Roz Eschelbacher**

**September 14; October 5; November 2; December 7; January 4;
February 1; March 1**

Background and discussion of selections.

Course Format: Zoom Only; First Monday of each month

September 14: *The Tiger's Wife: A Novel* by Téa Obreht
Fiction, 2011, 384 pages

"In this National Book Award Finalist novel, a young doctor investigating her grandfather's mysterious death in a Balkan country uncovers family legends, including tales of an immortal man and a tiger stalking a wartime village."

October 5: *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*
by Jack Weatherford

Biography, 2004, 312 pages

"Reclaims Genghis Khan from the 'savage hordes' stereotype, presenting him as a visionary leader who unified the Mongols and built a powerful, interconnected empire."

November 2: *The Shipping News* by Annie E. Proulx

Fiction, 1993, 352 pages

Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Unique writing style, placed in Newfoundland, characters change by environment and culture.

December 7: *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

Graphic novel, Memoir, 2004, 160 pages

"Funny and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images..."

January 4: *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel

Non-fiction true crime, 2023, 240 pages

"A great read about art thefts that actually happened. Set in Belgium and neighboring countries, it tells the tale of a young man, his passion for art, his collaborating girlfriend and his misguided mother."

February 1: *Sociopath: A Memoir* by Patric Gagne

Memoir, 2024, 368 pages

"Summary: A sociopath reflects on her life with brutal honesty and surprising empathy."

March 1: *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris

Historical Fiction, 2022, 368 pages

"Two brothers, newly free from slavery, start to make their way in the rural South. Strong characters, authentic voices and personal insight into what they might have experienced."

106 Play Reading

Limited to 15

Monday 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Class Leader: **John Archer**

September 14, 28; October 5, 19; November 2, 9

How do our three plays (that we will be reading aloud, dissecting and discussing) affect us today in our lives, or do they?

1. Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
2. **Plays 2 and 3 TBD**

Course Format: We will be reading three plays and watching some videos.

107 The Mind of Art

Limited to 18

Monday 2–4 pm

Class Leader: **Ann Marie Barry, PhD**

September 14, 28; October 5

What happens in the mind when we appreciate works of Art? This course explores how visual perception works in understanding Art and how various artists exploit the process to catalyze thought and feeling through automatic perceptual systems. Discover how Art makes artists of us all.

Course Format: Visual lecture and discussion.

Suggested books or supplies: In-class recommendations for further learning

108 Shakespeare's Macbeth:

A Study in Power

Limited to 35

Monday 2–4 pm

Class Leader: **Claire Keyes**

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; December 7

In this course, we will read and discuss William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as a study in the misunderstanding and misuse of power, personal and political.

Course Format: We will do a close study of the text of the play and then view a contemporary film directed by Joel Coen and starring Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand.

We may view other films as well.

Topics to be covered: One theme will predominate: the use and abuse of power.

Required books: Any good text of the tragedy of *Macbeth*.

Required reading for first class: Acts One and Two

Recommended background reading: Marjorie Garber, *Shakespeare After All* (section on *Macbeth*)

109 Appreciating and Tasting Wines

Monday 2–4 pm

Class Leader: **Bert Wolf**

November 2, 9, 16, 23

Didactic information from the facilitator with encouragement of class participation. Questions and reviews of previously covered material. Meetings will be held in a private home as in the past.

Course Format: A fee to be paid by each participant to cover the costs of the wines. Exact amount to be determined.

Required books or supplies: Facilitator's notes to be made available after each class.

Participants to supply glassware. Specific notification for each class.

TUESDAY

201 Struggles for Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel

Tuesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Dr. Simona Sharoni**

September 8, 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13

The course will highlight nonviolent grassroots groups in Israel and Palestine. Case studies include struggles and solidarity efforts led by women, LGBTQ+ movements, human rights groups, and refuseniks. As an activist-scholar engaged with these struggles, I am excited to share their vision for peace with justice in the region.

Course Format: The class will be in-person and include lecture, films and discussion.

Required books or supplies: Links to all readings will be provided.

Suggested books or supplies: Participants will receive a list of recommended resources in addition to the ones explored in the class.

202 Introduction to Conversational Spanish for Beginners 2

Tuesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Alma Barozzi**

September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1

This course serves as a continuation of *Course 202 – Introduction to Conversational Spanish for Beginners*, offered in the Spring 2026 semester. Building on foundational skills, it is designed to strengthen students' ability to understand and communicate effectively in everyday Spanish. Utilizing a

mixed methodology, the course integrates traditional grammar instruction with comprehensible input activities, addressing the needs of diverse learning styles. Emphasis will be placed on expanding basic vocabulary, reinforcing essential grammatical structures, and improving conversational fluency. By the end of the course, students will enhance both their oral comprehension and spoken communication skills in Spanish.

Course Format: Communicative activities (dialogs, games, discussion), some reading and writing, interactive media.

Required books or supplies: We will continue with the Espanol Santillana 1 workbook. Additional materials will be provided.

203 Health Topics

Simulcast

Tuesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leaders: **Mary Jo Wagner and Shelley Sackett**

September 22, October 6, 20, November 3, 17

Speakers and topics will be announced prior to the start of the semester.

Possible topics: Diet Recommendations for Senior Adults, Aging in Place/ Home Safety, Healing and Thriving through Holistic/Natural Therapies, It's Never Too Late to Get Fit, Holding on to our Memories, Keeping our Pets Healthy, etc.

Course Format: Lecture with Zoom

204 Making Sense of the 2026 Midterms: A Four-Part Conversation

Tuesday 9:30–11 am

Limited to 20

Class Leader: **Herb Selesnick**

October 6, 13, 20, 27 (October 27, Zoom Only)

The course instructor and participants will engage in a four-part series of informal conversations about ten topics that reflect the major forces shaping the 2026 midterms.

Course Format: The course instructor will briefly describe each of 10 political issues that are designed to spark reflective discussion rather than partisan debate. The instructor will then use prompting questions to initiate and facilitate an informal conversation about at least two of the 10 issues in each class session.

Required reading for first class: The instructor will provide a handout shortly before the first scheduled class.

205 How Your Body Works III

Simulcast

Tuesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Peter Barker, MD**

November 3, 10, 17, 24

Four more topics – The nervous system, the spine, the bones and ligaments and one more to be determined.

206 Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the US Navy

Tuesday 9:30–11:30 am

Limited to 20

Class Leader: **Ed Gunning**

November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1

Six Frigates is a masterful account of the early history of the US Navy often compared to the exciting fictional seafaring tales of Patrick O’Brian. *The Fortune of War* weaves the language of the sea and science as it chronicles the adventures of two best friends at the onset of the War of 1812. We will read both and discuss the history, natural philosophy, music and culture.

Course Format: The course will be part lecture, part discussion.

Topics to be Covered:

- The founding of the US Navy
- Patrick O’Brian’s Aubrey-Maturin novel series
- The War of 1812
- Nautical and Naval Terms, natural history, literary references and music

Texts:

- Ian W. Toll, *Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy*, 2006
- Patrick O’Brian, *The Fortune of War*, 1979

Required reading for first class: *Six Frigates*, Chapters 1-2.

Recommended background reading: Patrick O’Brian, *Master and Commander*

207 The Instant Gratification of Reading Short Stories

Tuesday 11 am–12:30 pm

Class Leader: **Gay Porter**

November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1

Short story reading offers a quick and accessible way to enjoy literature, providing instant gratification and allowing readers with a limited time commitment to explore diverse genres and authors. This class will present five short stories for reading at home and discussion in group.

208 The Failure of Athenian Power in Ancient Greece – 5th Cent. BCE

Tuesday 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Class Leader: **Dr. Linda M. Medwid**

September 8, 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13

We shall begin this course by briefly discussing the origin of a democratic form of government in ancient Athens, (the world’s first democracy), followed by the rise of Athenian power in Greece after the Persian Wars (490-479 BCE). Next, Athenian rule of its empire, aspects of Athenian culture, and the inability of Athens to co-exist peacefully with its Greek neighbor, Sparta, will be studied.

The various stages of Athens' war against Sparta, (the Peloponnesian War, 431-404 BCE,) will be examined as well as its outcome. We will find that Athenian thinking changed during this period; its traditional outlook transformed into a new perception of the world. We'll look forward to discussing the roots of this new thinking as well as its ramifications.

Areas of study will include history, literature and philosophy.

Course Format: Classes will consist of lectures and slides. Class discussion of assigned readings as well as topics that come to light during class will be strongly encouraged.

Required books or supplies: *Greek Realities: Life and Thought in Ancient Greece* by Finley Hooper, Wayne State University Press, 1978. (Though an older publication, this is still the best work on the history and culture of ancient Greece.) Used copies widely available on the web (starting at \$5), as well as new copies. Hardcover and paperback editions.

Sophocles I edited by David Grene and Richmond Lattimore, University of Chicago Press, 1954. (This is another older work, but it best captures the language of the original Greek) In paperback. Used copies on the web (about \$5) as well as new.

Required reading for first class: Hooper, *Greek Realities*. Chapter VI: The Formative Years at Athens – please read this chapter in preparation for the first class meeting.

Suggested books or supplies: Notebook if you would like to use one.

209 Iconic Western Movies

Tuesday 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Class Leader: **Marilyn Day**

September 8, 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13

Explore three iconic Westerns: High Noon, Shane, and The Searchers. We will view them together in class and then discuss what made each one so great. We will talk about their themes, characters, cinematography, directors, actors and origins.

Course Format: Viewing films and discussion.

210 You Don't Have To Be Crazy But It Helps

Tuesday 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Class Leader: **Paul Crosby**

November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1, 8

This course is a repeat of ones offered previously at Explorers. Let's face it, we all have a screw or two loose in one way or another. Nonetheless, it is still possible to find and foster a positive, healthy state of mind. Some of us can do it naturally and others must work at it. This course will explore common conditions that can challenge emotional well-being and seek to understand them from physiological, neurological and psychological perspectives. It will also provide tips and techniques that can be used to meet those challenges, including the use of medication when needed.

**Limited to 20
Repeat Course**

The topics covered will be:

1. Stress and anxiety – what are their causes and how to mitigate them
2. Anger – where does it come from and how to manage it
3. Conflict Management – how to use it for positive change
4. Depression and other mood issues – when singing the blues gives way to lethargy
5. Grief – its occurrence and expression in the life cycle
6. Sleep – what it is, why it is so important, and how to sleep well (if participants have already heard the sleep lecture, another topic will be substituted)
7. Substance abuse in seniors – what is addiction and how it can be addressed

The roles that humor and social connections play in emotional health will also be included. Limited to twenty participants, this will be an interactive course with exercises, discussions and videos. However, it is not a therapy or support group and will not cover major mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and dissociative (multi-personality) disorder.

Course Format: In-person only. Lecture, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, class discussion and exercises and videos

Required books or supplies: None. Written handouts will be provided at each class.

WEDNESDAY

301 WE ARE ALL FOOLS (OR WE SHOULD BE!)

Limited to 6

Wednesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: Dr. Rose Wolf

September 9, 16

A “fool” is a careless person, but he’s also an innocent in the world’s ways or one who cultivates silliness to entertain. Can holy simpletons or professional funny-men teach us to cope with today’s false sophistication? Yes—God’s fools and kings’ jesters can “trick us into learning with a laugh!”

Course Format: Lecture with readings and songs.

Required books or supplies: *The Feast of Fools* by Harvey Cox (Cambridge University Press, 1969: ISBN: 674295250) Published in 1969, FOF examines not only the Fool through the ages but also in that era in which he was invading sacred places to bring a fresh wind of change into worship. This work is available for a modest fee from eBay and Amazon.

Required reading for first class: Please take a few tentative nibbles of the *Feast* or more if your appetite for *Fool* (gooseberry, perhaps?) is whetted!

302 I Can't Draw a Straight Line

Limited to 12

Wednesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Peter Grimshaw**

September 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14

I can't draw a straight line – This will be a basic course in drawing, incorporating cartooning and doodling – using references from the Sunday comic strips, comic books, graphic novels and graffiti art.

Course Format: Practicing, we will draw together every day and talk about what we've done.

Required books and supplies: No textbooks required, but I'd advise every student to have a sketchbook, 8x10 or 11x14, from Michaels or any stationery store (Staples).

Required reading for first class: If you have a favorite course book or super hero character, bring that in – we will use visual examples.

Suggested books or supplies: #2 pencils, Bic flair black pens, erasers (watch Warner Brothers or Hanna Barbera cartoons)

303 People Like Us: Immigration Stories

Simulcast

Wednesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Sandra Lawson**

September 9, 16, 23, 30

Can you imagine leaving your country of origin to relocate to the land of the world's most super power? Can you imagine why or how you would do this?

Here is an opportunity to experience immigration stories of people like us and nearly all of our families that preceded us.

Presenters include:

- Paulo Martins from Portugal
- Natalie Mason from Jamaica and Canada
- Vasundha Ganju from India
- Alma Barozzi from Romania

304 Boston Philharmonic and Youth Orchestra: The Last Season

Wednesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Dr. Peter Sheckman**

October 7; November 18; February 3; March 31

Each concert of the 2026-2027 final season of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra will be studied with cellist Peter Sheckman.

Course Format: Learning, conversation, listening

Required books or supplies: Live streaming concerts-available, free attendance at rehearsals and concerts – available.

Suggested books of supplies: Benjamin Zander.com: Legacy website, music and lectures

305 Armchair Travel

Simulcast

Wednesday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: Sandra Lawson

November 4, 18; December 2, 9, 16

In this 5-part series of travel adventures throughout the world, we will visit China and Japan, Chicago, the North and South Atlantic Oceans, Oman and Southern Italy.

Course Format: Simulcast, lecture, PowerPoint presentations.

Part I – November 4, Dr. Peter Sheckman

The Boston Youth Philharmonic Tour to China and Japan

We will explore the workings of a youth symphony orchestra's tour through major concert halls in China and Japan. We'll explore the fun, the music, and the challenges of such an undertaking.

Part II – November 18, Hannah Diozzi

Checking out Chicagoland

In Chicago, we will delve into the timeline of our country's most illustrious architecture of the past 150 years. Viewed from sidewalks, the river and upstairs on the El, Chicago's buildings exemplify the best in architectural creativity.

Part III – December 2, Betsy Morris

Five Years Afloat

In May 1993, Monty and I took to the Atlantic Ocean for a year afloat. We traveled to Newfoundland, down the Atlantic coast to the Bahamas, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Cuba and Florida. The trip was so exciting, (and sometimes scary,) that we did it again. We ended up afloat for 5 years!

Part IV – December 9, Monique Greilich

Oman: A Land of Nuance and Intrigue

Oman is a Middle Eastern country of outward looking people eager to meet visitors. Oman has emerged from many years of civil conflict, poverty, and national fragmentation to become a stable and prosperous nation. Its antiquities, architecture, markets and mountains enthrall the visitor. Add to this their extended hospitality and you'll understand why Oman has been a tourist destination for over 35 years.

Part V – December 16, John Archer

Kick up Your Heels in the South of Italy

Southern Italy was once Magna Graecia or the Greek world outside Greece. Over time it was overrun by the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Spanish, and Bourbons. They left behind castles, markets, churches, temples, and castles – a rich layer of civilizations that remains visible in the landscape today.

306 Art as the Language of Modernism

Wednesday 11:30 am–1 pm

Class Leader: Elaine Slater

September 16, 23; October 7, 14

This course traces major artistic developments from the neoclassical period of late 18th century to 1980, with references to the Contemporary world. We will explore art and visual culture from aesthetic, technical and socio-cultural perspectives. Painting is the primary focus, often in concert with poetry and literature of its time.

Course Format: This course opens as a lecture and images but looks forward to engaging the class in Q and A, with shared insights and experiences.

No required books or supplies: Scanned readings will be handed out for the forthcoming class as decided by the instructor.

307 Bicycles Have and Will Continue to Change the World

Wednesday 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Class Leader: Dr. Keith A. Ratner

September 30, November 4

In the late 1800s, when the bicycle was first invented, suddenly the distance people could easily travel nearly doubled. In the early 1900s, the bicycle became the symbol of the American women's suffrage movements. After World War II, in the Netherlands, the return of bicycles to the populace from the Germans signified a return of the country to independence. Today, with increasing urban bicycle facilities, even the US is beginning to understand that bicycles are the most efficient mode of transportation in existence. This class will review each of these situations along with others that all point to the amazing machine that the common bicycle is.

Course Format: In-person lecture

308 Highlights of the 2026-2027

Opera Season

Wednesday 1:30–3 pm

Class Leader: Margie Satinsky

September 30; October 7, 14, 21

We will focus on four of the operas that the Metropolitan Opera will present live in HD during the 2026-2027 season: Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, Verdi's *Macbeth*, Verdi's *Otello*, and Puccini's *Turandot*.

Course Format: The class will be by ZOOM and include both lecture and music.

Required reading for first class: The first few chapters of Opera 101 are recommended, not required.

Suggested books or supplies: For each of the operas we will cover, we will provide a list of suggested readings. After each class, we will send class participants a copy of the PowerPoint presentation so they can listen to the music that we heard at their convenience.

Zoom Only

309 History of Choral Music, Part 2

Wednesday 2–4 pm

Class Leader: **Edward Lundergan**

September 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7

A survey of choral music from about 1750 to the present, including sacred masterworks of Mozart and Haydn; large choral-orchestral works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Mahler and Stravinsky; folk songs and spirituals; and shorter choral works from the 19th through the 21st century.

Course Format: Lecture-discussion

Required books or supplies: No required texts; we will watch selected videos on YouTube.

310 Continuing Spanish

Wednesday 2–4 pm

Class Leader: **Marilyn Cassidy**

September 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21; November 4, 18, 25; December 2

A solid base in Spanish/a genuine desire to learn and/or improve/a dedication to studying and participating/a good sense of humor.

Course Format: conversation and reading

Required books or supplies: TBD

THURSDAY

401 Evolution in the Age of Climate Change and Extinction

Simulcast

Thursday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Bill Grover**

September 10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15

This course will explore climate change, the ongoing mass extinction event, and the critical role humans play in humanities' current existential crises. We will review natural evolutionary processes with the rapid, human-driven degradation of Earth's biodiversity. We will explore a fundamental shift in human consciousness and how lifestyle can restore life's natural evolutionary processes.

Course Format: PowerPoint presentation followed by discussion.

Required books or supplies: Pick one of the following. We will discuss your reaction in first class.

- Dr. Brian Swimme: *The Universe as a Green Dragon-A Cosmic Creation Story*
- John Perkins: *The Confessions of an Economic Hit-Man*
- Thomas Berry: *The Great Work*
- Manitonquat: *Medicine Story: The Original Instructions*

Required reading for first class: Robert M. Hazen: *The Story of Earth – The First 4.5 Billion Years, From Stardust to Living Planet*

Suggested books or supplies: A Reading list will be provided.



402 Current Events

Thursday 9:30–11 am

Class Leaders: **Rotating Moderators**

September 10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22; November 5, 12, 19; December 3

In-person discussion of current events.

Course Format: Discussion

*Limited to 30
October, Zoom Only*

403 The Puzzle of E Pluribus Unum

Thursday 9:30–11 am

Class Leader: **Dean Wasserman**

October 1, 8, 15, 22; November 5

This ambitious phrase, “Out of Many One,” was chosen by Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams as the national motto for the seal of the United States. Is it currently accurate? How could 13 highly diverse, highly competitive colonies that rarely cooperated under the Articles of Confederation possibly function as one? Having reached our two hundred fiftieth anniversary, it is fitting to ask how far we have come in meeting its ambitious aspiration. Was the American experiment to create a cohesive pluralistic society unrealistic? Is the goal even possible?

Course Format: This series will review the shifting challenges of staying true to the words in the opening sentence of the Declaration of Independence “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Required reading: Each Week readings and some podcasts will be provided to stimulate your thoughts and, hopefully, your participation in discussions.

404 Spanish Conversation

Thursday 11:30 am–1 pm

Class Leaders: **John and Judy Arnold**

September 10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22; November 5, 12, 19; December 3

A conversation course for previously enrolled students with intermediate mastery of Spanish or with approval of presenters.

Course Format: Selected readings and sharing of life-experiences.

Required books or supplies: All texts will be available online.

Required reading for first class: Review your week/month/recent experiences and prepare to share with others.

*Limited to 10
Off-site*

405 Pod-versations (A Lifelong Learning Discussion Group)

Limited to 20

Thursday 11:30 am–1 pm

Class Leader: Susan Crowley

September 10, 17, 24; October 1

A short-term book club without the book! We will all listen to the same podcast episode related to a particular subject topic, and then meet for a structured, guided discussion. The discussion will address both the intellectual/cognitive dimensions of the topic and reflections associated with our personal life experience. The intent of this course is to capitalize on the participants' hard-earned wisdom and continued interest in personal and intellectual growth, fostering a sense of delight and connection.

Course Format: The facilitator will provide the first podcast discussion topic: *Mattering: Why Humans need to Matter*, on the Gray Area 3/30/26. After receiving the registration list, I'll send out a list and the class will vote on the remaining weeks' topics. There will be a required primary podcast episode and a secondary, recommended but not required podcast, which participants will listen to outside of class. Typically, both of these podcast episodes will be 45-60 minutes in length. Registered participants will receive the podcast selections between one and two weeks prior to class; sooner, if possible.

Required books or supplies: Participants will need a device on which to listen to the podcast. A computer, tablet, or smartphone will work. They should be able to access their podcast app on one of these devices, although an iPhone direct link to selections will be sent via email.

Required reading for first class: Listening to selected podcast episode as described in Course Format, above.

406 Pod-versations-II (A Lifelong Learning Discussion Group)

*Limited to 20
Zoom Only*

Thursday 11:30 am–1 pm

Class Leader: Susan Crowley

October 29; November 5, 12, 19

A short-term book club without the book! We will all listen to the same podcast episode related to a particular subject topic, and then meet for a structured, guided discussion, this time on ZOOM. We will investigate dreams as a topic for our four-session series. First, we will look at new science about the brain, and then move on to hypotheses about why we dream. After this, we'll explore podcasts that describe various methods of dream interpretation. We will not be analyzing each other's dreams.

Course Format: The facilitator will be looking for podcast recommendations prior to the series beginning. Topics will be in the realm of psycho-social-spiritual domain. Once I get the registration list, I'll send out an email to get participant recommendations. Information about podcasts up for discussion will be emailed 1-2 weeks in advance of our meeting for participant listening outside of class. Typically, podcast episodes will be 45-60 minutes in length.

Required books or supplies: Participants will need a device on which to listen to the podcast. A computer, tablet, or smartphone will work. They should be

able to access their podcast app (apple; Spotify; Amazon) on one of these devices, although an iPhone direct link to selections will be sent via email.

Required reading for first class: Listening to selected podcast episode.

407 Writers Group

Limited to 10

Thursday 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Class Leader: **Gay Porter**

September 10, 17, 24; November 5, 12, 19; December 3

The Writers Group meets weekly on Thursday afternoons from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm throughout the year. This group functions to support intermediate and above level writers as they develop their voice and broaden their skill set.

Course Format: Writers compose their writings at home, read during group, and critique each other's writings.

408 Election, 2026: A Blue Wave or a Red Wall? *Simulcast*

Thursday 2–4 pm

Class Leader: **Michael Goldman**

October 1, 8, 15, 22; November 5, 12

This course will focus both on all the open 2026 races for the US Senate as well as on all of the results for all 435 races for the US House of Representatives.

The three big 'macro-questions' that will be discussed for six weeks are:

1. Will America continue to go forward for the next two years under one party rule?
2. Can the Democrats recapture either one or both of the legislative branches?
3. Will history record this mid-term election as either the true beginning of the end of Trumpism in America, or instead only the end of the beginning of Trumpism in America?

FRIDAY

501 Supreme Court

Limited to 40

Friday 9:30–11 am

Zoom Only

Class Leaders: **Lee Bromberg, Tom Mela**

October 9, 23; November 6, 20

An ongoing discussion of the cases to be heard by the Supreme Court during the Court's October 2026 session (10/26–6/27), as well as any other developments affecting the Court which may arise. While the facilitators will provide historical background and context, the success of the course is wholly dependent on participation by the class.

Course Format: Remote (ZOOM) discussion.

Required books or supplies: Relevant readings will be provided prior to each class.

BULLETIN BOARD and CANCELLATIONS

Bulletin Board: There is a bulletin board at the Explorers Office at 10 Federal Street, Salem for all the schedule updates, coming events, special Salem State University events and other pertinent information.

Cancellations: If Salem State University cancels classes, Explorers classes will also be cancelled. If SSU classes are delayed, Explorers classes will be cancelled. Tune in to the following for updates: **TV:** Channels 4, 5, 7 and 25.

There is also a recorded message on the Explorers telephone: 978.744.0804.

Handicapped Information: Our quarters at 10 Federal Street are handicapped accessible. Please use the side entrance near the parking lot.

Explorers Center Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am–4 pm

Telephone: 978.744.0804 **Email:** explorers@verizon.net

Websites: salemstate.edu/explorers

(Complete catalog online) explorerslli.org

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Gay Porter, Chair

Carol Damon

Harriet Flashenberg

Claire Helfman

Sandra Lawson

Jonathan Leamon

Ted Novakowski

Linda Stark

Mary Jo Wagner

TECHNICAL TEAM

Ted Novakowski and Elliot Wyner,
Co-chairs

Dan Abramson

Marian Aylward

Liz Curtin

Roz Eschelbacher

Karl Kastorf

Jonathan Leamon

Albert Levesque

Gay Porter

CODE OF CONDUCT

Explorers provides programs which are challenging, thought-provoking, sometimes controversial and frequently interactive.

With this in mind we expect the following from our members and presenters:

- that they be considerate and respectful.
- that even in moments of disagreement they exercise good manners: keeping in mind that disagreement can be viewed as positive.
- that they take responsibility for their words and actions.

We join in active peer learning in order to share our knowledge and experience and in order to learn and grow together.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

When the directive comes for the building to be evacuated, you should leave the building immediately.

Do not stop for coats or personal belongings.

Turn right and exit to St. Peter Street (side door). Cross over to the church parking lot.

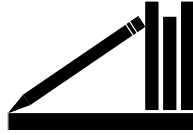
Stay with your classmates because it will be necessary to take attendance to determine that everyone is safely out of the building.

Do not re-enter the building until receiving the all-clear information.

If you are handicapped and unable to negotiate the steps to St. Peter Street, it is your responsibility to arrange with someone in your class to assist your evacuation. You must exit via the Federal Street exit. Upon exiting from the building, please notify emergency personnel of your safe exit.

Explorers LLI
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Course Catalog