

<https://sharedlearning.us/>

Courses begin the week of **April 26th and last from 4- to 10-weeks**, either as indicated for each course in its description or at the moderator's discretion. Courses are **FREE this semester**, but only the **MORNING COURSES** shown in black on this page are open to visitors. Courses in the **CASUAL SERIES** (in blue) are open only to current and former members.

Registration instructions are on the last page of this catalog. Deadline for registration is April 19th.

MONDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am		
HISTORY SIMPLIFIED 4 weeks, April 26 to May 17	Greg Hesterberg	MONDAYS: 2:00 - 3:30 pm, CASUAL SERIES Discussing How Innovations in Science and Tech Could Transform Society in the Next Two Generations Alan Ziegler
UFOs, UAPs, AND TIC-TACs ... WHAT IS GOING ON? 4 weeks, May 24 to June 14	Greg Hesterberg	
VIEWS ON THE NEWS	Alice Parsons & John Cocowitch	
TUESDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am		TUESDAYS: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
HOW TO READ THE BIBLE, II	Jonathan Gerard	PRIZING PROUST: IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME, VOL. VI Nancy Goudreau
		TUESDAYS: 11:15 - 12:45, CASUAL SERIES Is Aging Really Inevitable? Alan Ziegler
		TUESDAYS: 2:00 - 3:30 pm, CASUAL SERIES Discussing Possible Sources and Remedies for National Polarization Dennis Nagy
WEDNESDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am		WEDNESDAYS: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH	Michael Hardy & Bob Schreiner	THE HISTORY OF INDIA, II Raghu Ballal & Jack Narayan
ORIGINS OF GREAT CIVILIZATIONS	David Birnbaum	NINETEENTH CENTURY OPERA AND BEYOND, II Peggy Stevermer
READING & DISCUSSING GREAT SHORT STORIES	Marcy Sacarakis	
WRITING & SHARING PERSONAL HISTORY	Mary Ann Freedman	
THURSDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am		THURSDAYS: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN MIND, II	Bisharah Libbus	BRING TO THE SCREEN MEMORIES, STORIES OR FAMILY HISTORY Co-Moderators: Mary Ann & Darryl Freedman
SHARED LEARNING PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR	Glenn Wrighton	THURSDAYS: 1:30 - 3:00 pm, CASUAL SERIES Experiences in Teaching Adults: Lessons Learned and Felt Nancy Goudreau
FRIDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am		
DEUTSCHE KONVERSATIONS GRUPPE	Andrew O'Brien	

MONDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am

HISTORY SIMPLIFIED, V2.0 April 26 to May 17

Moderator: Greg Hesterberg. Would you like to better understand history, the past, and the world we inhabit today in a way that is very easy to grasp? Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "We are not makers of History, rather we are made by History." So, how exactly are we made by history? Greg proposes that it is by recognizing three simple elements which serve as the core of this course.

Come listen, watch, learn, discuss, and contribute in this four-week class as we identify and break them down. The world we live in will suddenly make far more sense because you will understand why history and the world of today are like they are ... and by employing these three essential elements, one can to a degree get a real sense of what the future holds. Talk about some lively, fascinating discussions, complete with more than a few laughs.

NOTE: *Class is limited to 24 students.

UFOs, UAPs, AND TIC-TACs ... WHAT IS GOING ON?

May 24 to June 14 Moderator: Greg Hesterberg. In 2019 and 2020 Congress and the Pentagon formally acknowledged for the first time the existence of unexplained aerial phenomena (UAP) and released three independent, peer-reviewed videos of them. The Pentagon has further acknowledged that a U.S. President for the first time has been formally briefed on what is known of their existence. This short four-week course uses lectures, excerpts from respected newspapers and discussion to take a thorough look at what has been acknowledged and what evidence exists - based on interviews from professionals actually involved in encounters and from well-researched history of the phenomena, reaching back millennia. Additionally, for your personal assessment and for group discussion, Greg will show a video clip in HD, currently in private hands and never publicly released of a real time encounter of three UAPs. This course is NOT an offering about ETs, LGM or alien conspiracy theories, but a salient review of what is officially known, peer-reviewed and officially government acknowledged and is now considered to be reliable evidence. **NOTE:** *Class is limited to 24 students.

VIEWS ON THE NEWS Moderators: Alice Parsons and John Cocowitch. Our open round table format allows for the respectful discussion of events at the world-wide, national, state and local levels. During each meeting, a volunteer(s) presents current topics for the exchange of ideas, in order to share and learn. The conversations and information exchanges are respectfully managed by Alice and John, using pre-established general operation guidelines to ensure that meeting etiquette and decorum are followed. **NOTES:** *Class is limited to 22 participants. *Students new to the course are welcome.

**Mondays 2:00 — 3:30 pm, CASUAL SERIES
DISCUSSING HOW INNOVATIONS IN SCIENCE
AND TECH COULD TRANSFORM SOCIETY IN
THE NEXT TWO GENERATIONS**

FOCUS: We will talk about how current innovations in science and tech hold great promise for dramatic improvements in medicine, energy, warfare, communications, transportation, work and everyday life.

*New participants are welcome.

HOST: Alan Ziegler; former lawyer; futurist and enthusiast about foreseeing probabilities that will drastically alter society.

TUESDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE, II Moderator: Rabbi Jonathan Gerard. This course will be a continuation of **Part I** from the previous term. New class members are welcome and are encouraged to read any of the materials posted on the website from **Part I** — though this is not necessary to enroll and enjoy the class. We will be listening to chapters, posted on [Audible.com](https://www.audible.com) (not [Great Courses](https://www.greatcourses.com) DVDs). The course name comes from our course text [How to Read the Bible](#), by James Kugel. The class will begin with the response to Sinai, following the giving of the Ten Commandments and will continue for as far as time and text allow. (Other topics will include: 'Worship on the road'; 'Moses' last words'; 'Other gods of Canaan.')

Although the topic is the Hebrew Bible, this course will raise many contemporary questions to be addressed in class, such as: "If there's no heaven in Judaism, why should you be good?"— raised in a recent discussion. Dr. Kugel, an Orthodox Jew who taught this popular course at Harvard, presents both ancient and modern critical interpretations of biblical passages. Class members will work sequentially through the Hebrew Bible, addressing each topic as it arises — but giving priority to class discussion.

NOTES: *Class is limited to 20. *10 weeks, April 27 - June 22.

TUESDAYS 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

PRIZING PROUST: IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME, Vol. VI Moderator: Nancy Goudreau. We continue to relish the sumptuous, but challenging prose of Marcel Proust (1871-1922) in his final volume of [In Search of Lost Time, titled Time Regained, Vol. 6](#). If you have read Volumes I – 5, you are welcome to attend our weekly readings and discussions, based on our reviewing 35 pages per week in [Vol. 6](#). For sure, in 2021, our loyal group will heartily toast our efforts, since we began this course, reading [Volume I](#), in Fall of 2018. We continue to use the Modern Library editions, C. K. Scott Moncrieff & Terrance Kilmartin, English translation.

TUESDAYS 11:15 – 12:45, CASUAL SERIES IS AGING REALLY INEVITABLE?

FOCUS: Aging itself is the greatest risk factor for most chronic diseases and disabilities which affect older adults. What if society prioritized the treatment of aging as a disease for which there may be a cure? We will discuss under this general theme: 1) theories of aging and gerontological research; 2) steps extending healthy human lifespans, including clinical trials, pharmaceuticals and other practices; and 3) social, psychological and philosophical implications of living on without biological limits.

HOST: Alan Ziegler; former lawyer; futurist and future enthusiast about foreseeing probabilities that will drastically alter lives.

TUESDAYS 2:00 – 3:30 pm, CASUAL SERIES DISCUSSING POSSIBLE SOURCES AND REMEDIES FOR NATIONAL POLARIZATION

FOCUS: Participate in non-partisan conversations about current polarizing situations in government, education, race and gender relations, and society in general.

HOST: Dennis Nagy; retired industry executive and retired faculty at Vanderbilt and Princeton; enthusiastic about healing the violence of any kind of polarization.

WEDNESDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH Co-Moderators: Michael Hardy & Bob Schreiner. This informal group-led class is intended for people at a more or less intermediate Spanish level. Our goal for each meeting is to stimulate group conversations about whatever topic or idea has been selected by the volunteer who will suggest the direction for that particular day. Each course participant is expected to organize and informally host one class. This role is one of either choosing materials to read or suggesting topics for conversations. Our group has at least one native Spanish speaker. At our various levels, all are willing to participate and are comfortable in giving information and asking for help. **NOTES:** *Class is limited to 15 participants. *Students previously enrolled have priority in registration. *10 weeks, April 28 - June 30.

THE ORIGINS OF GREAT ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS Moderator: David Birnbaum. In 12 lectures from Great Courses, the professor gives a comparative analysis of the civilizations that sprung up in the Near East starting over 5000 years ago. These include Sumer, Mesopotamia, Babylon, Assyria, Persia, Egypt, the Hittites, and the Hebrews. He'll stress the many innovations that these cultures produced and that form the basis of our civilization today. Here are some of them: *the invention and evolution of writing; *the development of vast empires dependent not only on military might, but on laws and administration; *the growth of trade; and *the contributions of the Hebrews to the religious and ethical future of Western Civilization. The collapse of many of these civilizations at the end of the Bronze Age (about 1200 BCE) is also discussed. David will show two lectures per meeting with time allotted for discussion. If we wish, we will extend the class to look at the Indus River civilization that developed about the same time, and in fact, traded with some of these other groups. **NOTE:** *8 weeks, April 28 - June 16.

READING AND DISCUSSING GREAT SHORT STORIES Moderator: Marcy Sacarakis. Class members will discuss one story each week from The Best American Short Stories 2019 which is available for purchase from local bookstores or Amazon. We will have in-depth discussions about the author, the writing style, the plot, the characters and how they are developed, the themes, and the story's relevance to us. Members of the class will take turns leading the discussion. Each class ends with a poetry reading chosen by a class member. **NOTES:** *Class is limited to 15, with preference given to returning members. *9 weeks, April 28 - June 23.

WRITING & SHARING PERSONAL HISTORY Moderator: Mary Ann Freedman. Only we can document our personal experiences, reactions and perceptions during such dynamic times. We will support each other's individual efforts to record in writing what we have lived through and to encourage and aid our developing sense of accomplishments. All will: *write about episodes and decisions made in our lives; *read aloud our writing; *listen to everyone; and *appreciate the telling of the experience(s) and/or insights. Also, we will be able to share illustrations and photos online. **NOTES:** *Class is limited to 20 participants. *Students new to this course are welcome.

WEDNESDAYS 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

THE HISTORY OF INDIA, II Moderators: Raghu Ballal & Jack Narayan. We will continue lectures on the "History of India," a Great Course by Michael Fisher, starting with the Mauryan Empire (300-400 BCE). We'll learn about Chandragupta Maurya's conquest of the famous Greek general Selucus, thus consolidating the entire northern India under one ruler. His grandson Ashoka converted to Buddhism, expanded the empire to the whole sub-continent, and spread Buddhism to Ceylone, South East Asia and China. We'll cover the Gupta empires of the 4th century CE. This period showed a vast development in the fields of literature, science, mathematics and astronomy and is often called the 'Classic Age' in India's history. From 900 to 1100 CE, an influx of Parsis, Jews, Muslims and Christians interacted and co-mingled with the native population to create a cultural mix. In 1500 CE, the Mughals conquered Delhi and started their empire which lasted until the mid-17th century when the British took over. We'll have a fascinating overview of a previously co-existing, multi-ethnic, multicultural, multi-religious society now on different sides of borders. **NOTES:** *Anyone can attend. *8 weeks, April 28 - June 16.

NINETEENTH CENTURY OPERA AND BEYOND, II Moderator: Peggy Stevermer. Opera is for many music lovers the ultimate musical form, and a base for many of the elements of the performing arts, i.e.: acting, scenery, costume and sometimes dance or ballet, as well as orchestral, choral and solo music. If you enjoy musical theater, think about "taking the plunge" to explore the world of opera. Though this course is a continuation from the winter semester, it is certainly not necessary that you joined us then. We will explore operas from the second half of the 19th century and into the early 20th century, using a variety of videos, recordings and period drawings/paintings. In particular, we'll delve into a study of the composers and the librettists — their lives and inspiration, as well as examining the musical experience and what makes it such a wonderful art form. We'll focus on the most famous and/or interesting operas of composers, such as Verdi, Wagner, Puccini, Debussy, etc., enjoying their stories, the music and their collaborators. **NOTE:** *New students are welcome.

THURSDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am

THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN MIND, II Moderator: Bisharah Libbus. This lecture series is from [The Great Courses](#) and focuses on the intellectual history of the 17th and 18th centuries. We will continue this course, which we started in 2020, but did not finish, concerning the intellectual revolution that shaped the modern age ... the tug and pull between deism, skepticism, optimism, materialism and naturalism. These philosophical clashes dealt with the implications of new systems of inquiry to religion and naturalism. We will view and discuss two lectures in each class along with supplementary material. **NOTE:** *New students are welcome.

SHARED LEARNING PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR

Moderator: Glenn Wrighton. Novice and expert photographers will meet to explore photographic topics selected by the group, as well as photos taken by participants. Topic areas may include photo editing, tips for taking photos, digital camera technology and sharing photos – explored with lecture, videos, discussion and live demonstration as appropriate. **NOTES:** *[Every OTHER Thursday](#). *Students new to this course are welcome.

FRIDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am

DEUTSCHE KONVERSATIONS GRUPPE Moderator: Andrew O'Brien (301-520-0965). For those German speakers who wish to maintain their fluency, this course will provide you with informal and cordial opportunities to converse in German. We'll refer to articles in German newspapers, magazines and select interesting topics about current German and American events. Each class meeting will be conducted entirely in German and not include German grammar instructions. **NOTE:** *German speakers new to this course are welcome.

THURSDAYS 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

BRING TO THE SCREEN MEMORIES, STORIES OR FAMILY HISTORY Co-Moderators: Mary Ann & Darryl Freedman. Do you have a life experience or adventure you'd like to share with family or friends? Did you get lost in a foreign country or on a hike, live through a war or have a family legend that you'd like to pass along to your grandchildren? In this proactive course, Darryl and Mary will guide you to convert your films, photos, and memories into 5 - 10 minute videos that you can share on YouTube, social media or various Cloud files. **NOTE:** *Class is limited to 8 participants.

THURSDAYS 1:30 — 3:00 pm, CASUAL SERIES
Experiences in Teaching Adults: Lessons Learned and Felt

FOCUS: Let's share our classroom experiences in trying to make the 'magic' of teaching and learning happen, so that we can gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for teaching adults at whatever age. Through our efforts, when and how have students: *Learned new skills and/or knowledge? *Gained and/or broadened their insights? *Changed their attitudes? How do we know that any of this DID happen? Let's talk about what worked or didn't work for us. And what is there to gain when it does work.

HOST: Nancy Goudreau; retired adult learning and education specialist for DC federal agencies and community colleges; still intrigued with what works with adults and how to 'empower' students.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

in conjunction with

April's LINDGREN LECTURE

Friday, April 16, 2021, 11:15 a.m. via Zoom

Link to be sent shortly before meeting.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome. Thanks to Winter Moderators and Hosts.
- Introduction of members nominated to serve on SL Board for May 2021 - April 2022.
- Election of four people to be voted on as Officers by the SL Board at their May meeting.
- Recognition of retiring board members.
- Status of plans for resuming in-person classes in September.

LINDGREN LECTURE: "THE FACE OF POVERTY IN NORTH CAROLINA"

Since 2008, Professor Gene Nichol has conducted hundreds of interviews with North Carolina poor people and those working to alleviate the worst of their circumstances. He challenges us to fully commit to end poverty by seeing what is too often invisible, looking past partisan divides and preconceived notions, and actively seeking change. With his J.D. from University of Texas and numerous awards, his expertise includes: Civil Rights and Discrimination, Constitutional Law, Federal Courts and Poverty Law. A former president of the College of William & Mary, law dean at University of Colorado and dean of UNC School of Law, he is currently the Boyd Tinsley distinguished professor at UNC. Among his extensive publications: *The Faces of Poverty in North Carolina: Stories from Our Invisible Citizens* (2018).

2020 - 2021 SHARED LEARNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Hank Becker.....President, Registrar, Website Mgr.
- Nancy Goudreau.....Vice President, Curriculum/
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- Rob DavidChair, Finance Committee
- Marsha Back.....Member at-Large
- Jonathan GerardMember at-Large
- Greg Hesterberg..... Member at-Large
- Bisharah Libbus.....Member at-Large
- Bonnie Sullivan.....Member at-Large

Registration

The Spring Mini-Term of Shared Learning is FREE for Members and Non-Members.

To enroll in a **MORNING COURSE(S)**, either complete this page and mail to Hank Becker, 1114 Phils Ridge Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516, OR fill out the online registration form by April 19th at <https://sharedlearning.us/spring-21-registration/>.

REGISTRATION FOR **CASUAL SERIES**: Open only to members who should contact the Host directly.

Name (1): _____ Name (2): _____

Email (1): _____ Email (2, different): _____

Address: _____

Phone 1 [home or cell (circle)] _____ Phone 2 [cell]: _____

Shared Learning Membership (check one) Current Former Visitor/Guest

MORNING COURSES: Circle the Course(s) in which you wish to enroll. Couples should indicate who is taking which course by adding their initials.

THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN MIND, II <u>Thursday 9:30</u>	THE HISTORY OF INDIA, II <u>Wednesday 11:15</u>	PRIZING PROUST <u>Tuesday 11:15</u>
BRING TO THE SCREEN MEMORIES, STORIES OR FAMILY HISTORY <u>Thursday 11:15</u>	HISTORY SIMPLIFIED <u>Monday 9:30, April 26-May 17</u>	READING & DISCUSSING GREAT SHORT STORIES <u>Wednesday 9:30</u>
CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH <u>Wednesday 9:30</u>	HOW TO READ THE BIBLE, II <u>Tuesday 9:30</u>	SHARED LEARNING PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR <u>Thursday 9:30</u>
DEUTSCHE KONVERSATIONS GRUPPE <u>Friday 9:30</u>	NINETEENTH CENTURY OPERA AND BEYOND, II <u>Wednesday 11:15</u>	UFOs, UAPs, AND TIC-TACs <u>Monday 9:30, May 24-June 17</u>
	ORIGINS OF GREAT CIVILIZATIONS <u>Wednesday 9:30</u>	VIEWS ON THE NEWS <u>Monday 9:30</u>
		WRITING & SHARING PERSONAL HISTORY <u>Wednesday 9:30</u>

CASUAL SERIES: Contact the HOST to Register.

DISCUSSING HOW INNOVATIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECH COULD TRANSFORM SOCIETY IN THE NEXT TWO GENERATIONS <u>Monday 2:00</u>	DISCUSSING POSSIBLE SOURCES AND REMEDIES FOR NATIONAL POLARIZATION <u>Tuesday 2:00</u>	EXPERIENCES IN TEACHING ADULTS: LESSONS LEARNED AND FELT <u>Thursday 1:30</u>	IS AGING REALLY INEVITABLE? <u>Tuesday 11:15</u>
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