

**CATALOG OF ON-LINE COURSES**  
**Winter Semester, 2021: January 11 – April 16, Monday – Friday**  
<http://sharedlearning.us>

Registration information is on the last page of this catalog. Submit a registration form and membership check so that it is postmarked by December 28. If you have questions about any course, contact the moderator.  
 To receive a paper copy of this catalog, contact Mary Ann Freedman, (919-593-3335).

<b>MONDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>MONDAYS: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm</b>
<i>London: A History of the Greatest City in the Western World</i> <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b> Greg Hesterberg	<i>Barry's Book Discussions</i> Barry Lentz
<i>Our Story – How We Became Human</i> Barry Lentz	<i>Computer Tricks &amp; Treats</i> Hank Becker
<i>Views on the News</i> Alice Parsons & John Cocowitch <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>	<i>Controversies: An Exploration of Globalization</i> <b>FILLED...CLOSED</b> Meyer Liberman
	<i>The History of Impressionism, II</i> <b>FILLED...CLOSED</b> Bonnie Sullivan
<b>TUESDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>TUESDAYS: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm</b>
<i>Everyday Engineering</i> Michael Goodyear	<i>Prizing Proust: In Search of Lost Time, Vol. VI</i> Nancy Goudreau
<i>How to Read the Bible</i> Jonathan Gerard	<i>The Hidden History of DNA</i> Bisharah Libbus & Hank Becker
	<i>The History of Impressionism, II</i> <b>FILLED...CLOSED</b> Bonnie Sullivan
<b>WEDNESDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>WEDNESDAYS: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm</b>
<i>Conversational Spanish</i> Michael Hardy, Bob Schreiner & Sydnie Kunin	<i>Nineteenth Century Opera and Beyond</i> Peggy Stevermer
<i>Reading &amp; Discussing Great Short Stories</i> <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b> Marcy Sacarakis	<i>The History of India</i> Jack Narayan & Raghu Ballal <b>FILLED...CLOSED</b>
<i>Writing &amp; Sharing Personal History</i> Mary Ann Freedman	
<b>THURSDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>THURSDAYS: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm</b>
<i>Games People Play</i> Bisharah Libbus	<i>Bring To The Screen Memories, Stories or Family History</i> Mary & Darryl Freedman
<i>Shared Learning Photography Seminar</i> Glenn Wrighton	<i>It's High Time I Improved My Writing &amp; Editing</i> Nancy Goudreau
	<i>The Most Rational Person in the Room</i> Hank Becker
<b>FRIDAYS: 9:30 – 11:00 am</b>	
<i>Book Club</i> Abbie Tom & Suzanne Haff	
<i>Deutsche Konversations Gruppe</i> Andrew O'Brien	

**MONDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**MONDAYS 11:15 am – 12:45 pm**

**LONDON: A HISTORY OF THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WESTERN WORLD** Moderator: Greg Hesterberg (513-304-5901). Samuel Johnson once wrote "a man who is tired of London is tired of Life. For there is in London all that life can afford." Come join and see why even today that still rings true. This 24-lecture series from the Great Courses will be presented in two, thirty-minute lectures per class, followed by group discussion. Each lecture includes both history and travelogue, from its 2,000-year-old beginnings to the London that is post-Brexit. The city is the one place that perhaps has had the greatest impact on history itself. For a brief introduction, go to this audio link and listen as Dr. Buckholz discusses his series: [https://youtu.be/vJDwQ2\\_2S18](https://youtu.be/vJDwQ2_2S18) **NOTE:** Class is limited to 18 participants. **FILLED - CLOSED**

**OUR STORY – HOW WE BECAME HUMAN** Moderator: Barry Lentz (919-824-8807). We will use the first two meetings to read A Pocket History of Human Evolution: How We Became Sapiens by Silvana Condemi and François Savatier, which participants must purchase. The book is an excellent, brief (116 pages, \$7 on Amazon) synopsis of current theories (2019) about human evolution. Participants will prepare notes/questions on each day's reading and lead discussions thereof. Then, we will view (two lectures per day) and discuss The Rise of Humans: Great Scientific Debates, a Great Course by John Hawks of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Hawks examines many questions and controversies that led to the current theories summarized by Condemi and Savatier.

**VIEWS ON THE NEWS** Moderators: Alice Parsons (919-642-8806) and John Cocowitch (919-704-8262). 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 20 participants. \*Students new to the course are welcome. **FILLED - CLOSED**

**BARRY'S BOOK DISCUSSIONS** Moderator: Barry Lentz (919-824-8807). We will read and discuss roughly 25-30 pages per week of Isabelle Wilkerson's new social commentary Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent. She has provided a thought-provoking look at how the American caste system, like other better-known systems in India and Nazi Germany, has led to the racial injustice extant in today's America. You will need to purchase the book: Amazon: \$13.59; Kindle, \$19.24; Hardcover (>9000 reviews, 5.0 rating). Active participation by class members is welcomed and expected. This will definitely be a shared learning class!

**COMPUTER TRICKS & TREATS** Moderator: Hank Becker (919-932-7356). Each week Hank or another member of the class will present ideas for becoming an expert user of one of the major computer or tablet platforms—Macintosh, Windows, or iOS (iPad). By using Zoom screen sharing, the presenter will demonstrate various "tricks" for using built-in and third-party applications, web browsers, and web sites. For example, editing pdf files; translating videos from one format to another; saving webpages as pdf files; copying files from one device to another (as well as sharing website tabs between devices); setting up your own keyboard shortcuts; using multiple monitors and multiple "spaces"; using options in system preferences and control panels; and using browser add-ons. These "tricks" become "treats" when they become second-nature in your use of this amazing technology. The allocation of weeks among the three platforms will depend on the interests of those who enroll and the ability of class members to share their expertise. Intended for those already proficient in the basic use of their computer.

**CONTROVERSIES** Moderator: Meyer Liberman (919-417-0674). This is a seminar-type, discussion-oriented course, based on the careful reading of chapters in our selected book: OPEN: The Progressive Case for Free Trade, Immigration and Capital by Kimberly Causing. This controversial issue is still being debated today on the pros and cons of a world that offers progressive policies. What nations and segments of people within each nation benefit from such implementation and which may lose? Causing's well-reviewed book "analyzes the effects of globalization" and presents the progressive's case which will be debated and analyzed during this class. Also, we'll select supplemental articles and/or chapters to read for extra background. Participants will be expected to present and moderate at least one week's reading selection during the semester. **NOTE:** To promote discussion, class is limited to 15 participants. **FILLED - CLOSED**

**THE HISTORY OF IMPRESSIONISM, II** Moderator: Bonnie Sullivan (919-437-6904). During the Fall 2020 term, we studied the early work of Manet, Monet, Renoir, Degas, Caillebotte, and Cassatt - artists who became known as the Impressionists. In the Winter 2021 term, we will examine paintings by Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Toulouse-Lautrec, as well as later work by Manet, Monet Renoir, Degas, and Pissarro. Bonnie will: \*conduct discussions, based on the informative lectures from a Great Courses series (one per meeting); \*lead visual analyses of paintings by artists from the lecture; \*show short videos by Khan Academy art historians (1-2 each meeting). The course will conclude with lectures on the art movements emerging from Impressionism: Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Abstraction, Dadaism and Surrealism. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 24 participants. \*Class members from the Fall 2020 semester have priority if they register by December 24.

**FILLED - CLOSED**

**TUESDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**EVERYDAY ENGINEERING, a Course Continuation from Winter, 2020** Moderator: Michael Goodyear (919-968-0932). Professor Stephen Ressler (from the [Great Courses](#)) will increase our appreciation of the function and design of the many things we take for granted in modern everyday life, such as, the structure of buildings, water management, energy, generation and delivery of power, and the devising of communication systems. Mike will show two lectures per meeting with time for discussion.

**HOW TO READ THE BIBLE** Moderator: Rabbi Jonathan Gerard (610-248-1588). The Hebrew Bible is not a single book, but rather a library of 24 books from ancient Judea and Babylon (today's Iraq), attaining their present forms from 538 BCE to 200 CE. This course will present [audio](#) lectures by renowned Harvard scholar James Kugel, who will work chronologically through the Hebrew Bible, exploring both \*how Orthodox/traditional scholars interpret the Bible as "sacred"; and \*how modern interpreters use political science, sociology, psychology, economics, and archeology to interpret the text and reconstruct its time and place. The original authors of the Bible sought to understand the world in which they lived and the meaning of their lives. So shall we, as a class, respond in our own way, to the same questions they sought to answer. We will listen to one or two lectures per class, depending on time — giving priority to class discussion.

**TUESDAYS 11:15 am – 12:45 pm**

**PRIZING PROUST: IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME, Vol. VI** Moderator: Nancy Goudreau (703- 329-2933). 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.

**THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF DNA** Moderators: Hank Becker (919-932-7356) & Bisharah Libbus (919-771-6567). Genetic information has expanded and impacted fields as diverse as criminology, medicine, archaeology, and evolution, among others. Does that leave you puzzled and confused? This course from the [Great Courses](#) (by the engaging lecturer and award-winning author Sam Kean) will provide some foundation to dispel the fog as it covers: \*the structure of DNA; \*the decoding of the genetic code; \*the human genome project; \*epigenetics and gene regulation; \*the use of DNA sequences to reveal biological history; and \*personalized medicine. Bisharah and Hank will show one lecture per meeting and provide supplemental material with adequate discussion time.

**THE HISTORY OF IMPRESSIONISM, II** Moderator: Bonnie Sullivan (919-437-6904). During the Fall 2020 term, we studied the early work of Manet, Monet, Renoir, Degas, Caillebotte, and Cassatt - artists who became known as the Impressionists. In the Winter 2021 term, we will examine paintings by Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Toulouse-Lautrec, as well as later work by Manet, Monet, Renoir, Degas, and Pissarro. Bonnie will: \*conduct discussions, based on the informative lectures from a [Great Courses](#) series (one per meeting); \*lead visual analyses of paintings by artists from the lecture; \*show short videos by Khan Academy art historians (1-2 each meeting). The course will conclude with lectures on the art movements emerging from Impressionism: Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Abstraction, Dadaism and Surrealism. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 24 participants. \*Class members from the Fall 2020 semester have priority, if they register by December 1. **FILLED - CLOSED**

**WEDNESDAYS 9:30 – 11:00 am**

**CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH** Co-Moderators: Michael Hardy (919-428-7977), Bob Schreiner (919-819-0862) & Sydnie Kunin (919-533-3129). 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 class member who has volunteered to 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, are all willing to participate and comfortable in giving information and asking for help. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 15 participants. \*Students previously enrolled have priority in registration.

**READING & DISCUSSING GREAT SHORT STORIES** Moderator: Marcy Sacarakis (610-428-9916). Class members will discuss one story each week from the O’Henry Prize Stories 2017, which is available for purchase from local bookstores or Amazon. We will participate in in-depth discussions about the author, writing style, plot, characters and their development, 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 participant. **NOTES:** \*To facilitate discussion, class is limited to 15 participants. \*Students previously enrolled have priority for registration.

**FILLED - CLOSED**

**WRITING & SHARING PERSONAL HISTORY** Moderator: Mary Ann Freedman (919-593-3335). 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 on-line. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 20 participants. \*Students new to this course are welcome.

**WEDNESDAYS 11:15 am – 12:45 pm**

**NINETEENTH CENTURY OPERA AND BEYOND** Moderator: Peggy Stevermer (919-923-7926). Opera is for many music lovers the ultimate musical form, encompassing many, and sometimes all, the elements of the performing arts, i.e.: acting, scenery, costume, and sometimes dance or ballet, as well as orchestral, choral and solo music as the base. If you enjoy musical theater, think about “taking the plunge” to explore the world of opera. Using a variety of videos, recordings and period drawings/paintings, Peggy will share a sampling of operas, written during the 1800s and early 1900s. In particular, we’ll delve into a study of the composers and the librettists – their origins, lives, and inspiration. From Beethoven’s only opera, the political drama, Fidelio (1803), to Donizetti’s great comic masterpiece Don Pasquale (1843) and through Pelléas et Mélisande by Debussy (1902), we’ll enjoy the stories, the music and the lives of those involved in creating such masterpieces.

**THE HISTORY OF INDIA** Moderators: Raghu Ballal (919-260-4619) & Jack Narayan (315-806-6032). This course will start with four lectures (Great Courses) from the early history of India till the Indus Valley Civilization (3000-1500 BCE). Then we take you to modern history, relating the transition from the late Mughal system to the rule of the East India Company in the 1700s, to the rise of British Power in the Indian subcontinent. We will examine how a small commercial enterprise was able to become THE master of India within two generations and trace the impact of the colonial structures, attitudes and policies upon the cultures, religions and the Indian economy that led to the rise of Indian nationalism. Along the way, we will learn about some dominant personalities: Mohandas Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and British Viceroy, Lord Curzon and Lord Mountbaten. This course will conclude with a look at the partition of India in 1947 and a final assessment how colonial rule set India on its path to economic growth and its current global power status. Raghu and Jack will present Great Courses lectures, two per class, with time allotted for discussion.

**FILLED -**

**THURSDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**GAMES PEOPLE PLAY** Moderator: Bisharah Libbus (919-771-6567). Ever wonder how to make sense of the “games” that people and organizations around us engage in, in order to get what they want, either for the long- or short term? This [Great Courses](#) series of lectures will introduce modern game theory which studies how interactive decision-making takes place among competing players, thereby helping us identify and understand the players' strategic moves. We will be introduced to tools of analysis and their application in such diverse fields as personal relations, business competition, bargaining, voting and war. Bisharah will show two lectures per meeting, plus share supplemental materials. Class discussion will be encouraged.

**SHARED LEARNING PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR** Moderator: Glenn Wrighton (919-929-3406). Novice and expert photographers will meet to explore photographic topics selected by the group, as well as photos taken by participants. Topics 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, beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>.  
 \*Students 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 & Darryl Freedman: Mary (919-593-3335) and Darryl (919-593-3334). 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 pro-active 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.

**IT'S HIGH TIME I IMPROVED MY WRITING & EDITING** Moderator: Nancy Goudreau (703-329-2933). In this present on-line environment, are you challenged by important writing tasks, e.g., \*creating or maintaining relationships; \*contributing to local organizations; or \*expressing opinions or autobiographical experiences? Or, perhaps you finally have the time to develop some delayed literary or non-fiction projects, but your lack of confidence is blocking your efforts. You feel stymied when you are: \*just beginning and/or organizing your thoughts; \*constructing paragraphs, sentences and phrases; \*choosing precise language; or \*using formal language, instead of your typically informal speech. This pro-active course will be based on the needs of its participants, as demonstrated by their written samples done at home ... paragraph(s) based on generic topics, one half to one hour's worth of home writing per week. During class, we will review and edit all samples, in order to build objectivity in editing our work and to appreciate the gradual improvement in writing by our classmates and ourselves. As needed, we'll review any grammar rules and editing strategies. **NOTE:** \*Class is limited to eight participants.

**THE MOST RATIONAL PERSON IN THE ROOM** Moderator: Hank Becker, (919-932-7356). This series of 24 lectures from the [Great Courses](#) provides an engaging set of ideas and mental exercises in creative thinking, logical inference, decision-making, conceptual visualization, thought experiments, and argument. The course emphasizes reasoning in the social context, i.e., how to: \*use the wisdom of crowds; \*analyze the flow of thought in a debate; and \*defuse fallacious reasoning, deflate rhetoric, and get past opinion polarization. A toolkit of thinking methods, such as, decision theory, game theory, probability, and experimental design, are all introduced and applied. Topics include: \*common errors we make in reasoning; \*thinking outside the box; \*heuristics and rhetoric; \*the use of mental models; and \*a brief introduction to “the great philosophers.” Hank will conduct one or two lectures per class meeting.

**FRIDAYS 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**BOOK CLUB** Moderators: Abbie Tom (919-933-8972) & Suzanne Haff (919-260-9277). Class members from the Winter 2020 term have selected the following titles and voluntary moderators for our Winter 2021 term:

**\*\*February 6, Circe by Madeline Mille.** Carolyn is in charge.

**\*\*March 5, Exit West by Mohsin Hamid.** Abbie is in charge.

**\*\*April 2, Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague by Geraldine Brooks.** Suzanne is in charge.

**NOTES:** \*Held first Fridays of the Month. \*Students new to this group are welcome.

**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.

**SHARED LEARNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Hank Becker	President, Registrar, Website Mgr.	919-932-7356
Nancy Goudreau	Vice President, Curriculum/Catalog Coordinator	703-329-2933
Barry Lentz	Secretary	919-824-8807 (c)
Sudhir Pahwa	Treasurer	210-488-2799 (c)
Alice Parsons	Past President	919-642-0606
Mary Ann Freedman	Publicity Coordinator	919-593-3335 (c)
Anne-Marie Durand-Kennett	Hospitality Coordinator	919-960-0028
David Birnbaum	Librarian	919-942-8469
Meyer Liberman	Lindgren Lecture Coordinator	919-417-0674
Rob David	Chair, Finance Committee	919-724-2351 (c)
Marsha Back	Member at-Large	919-381-7694
Jonathan Gerard	Member at-Large	610-248-1588 (c)
Greg Hesterberg	Member at-Large	513-304-5901 (c)
Bisharah Libbus	Member at-Large	919-771-6567 (c)
Bonnie Sullivan	Member at-Large	919-437-6904 (c)

# REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE WINTER SEMESTER, 2021

**DEADLINE for the Winter Registration by Mail is DECEMBER 28, 2020.**

**Classes begin on ZOOM the week of January 11th.**

**REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:** If you are a **CURRENT MEMBER** who paid dues for Fall '20, your dues are waived for Winter '21. **You do not need to mail in this form.** Instead, review the courses below and on <http://sharedlearning.us/winter21>, complete the online form OR send an email to [hjbecker@uci.edu](mailto:hjbecker@uci.edu) that lists your course choices.

**This form is for NEW MEMBERS** who have never enrolled in Shared Learning **and FORMER MEMBERS** from last Winter or before. Complete and mail this page with a check for your dues **(\$25/person) payable to Shared Learning Association.** Mail to **Hank Becker, 1114 Phils Ridge Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.** All courses are free with membership — no limit on the number of courses. Circle your choices in the table below. If you're a couple, use initials to indicate who is taking which course. If you have questions about your choice(s), please contact the Moderator(s) directly.

1) Barry's Book Discussions M. 11:15	9) Games People Play Th. 9:30	17) Shared Learning Photography Seminar Th. 9:30
2) Book Club F. 9:30	10) How to Read the <i>Bible</i> Tu. 9:30	18) The Hidden History of DNA Tu. 11:15
3) Bring to the Screen Memories, Stories or Family History Th. 11:15	11) It's High Time I Improved My Writing & Editing Th. 11:15	19) The History of Impressionism, II M 11:15 <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>
4) Computer Tricks & Treats M. 11:15	12) London: A History of the Greatest City in the World M. 9:30 <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>	20) The History of Impressionism, II Tu. 11:15 <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>
5) Controversies: An Exploration of Globalization M. 11:15 <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>	13) Nineteenth Century Opera and Beyond W. 11:15	21) The History of India W. 11:15 <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>
6) Conversational Spanish W. 9:30	14) Our Story - How We Became Human M. 9:30	22) The Most Rational Person in the Room Th. 11:15
7) Deutsche Konversations Gruppe F. 9:30	15) Prizing Proust: In Search of Lost Time, Vol. VI Tu. 11:15	23) Views on the News M. 9:30 <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>
8) Everyday Engineering Tu. 9:30	16) Reading & Discussing Great Short Stories W. 9:30 <b>FILLED - CLOSED</b>	24) Writing & Sharing Personal History W. 9:30

**Member Information for one or two people:**

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Name (2): \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEMBERS:** please complete fields below. **PREVIOUS MEMBERS:** just note changes in contact information since Sept. 2020.

Email for (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Email for (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (person 1): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (person 2): \_\_\_\_\_

Landline Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In future, would you (or one of you) like to serve as a Course Moderator? (initial) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

As an on-line Moderator? \_\_\_\_\_ As a classroom Moderator? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what subject would you be interested in moderating? \_\_\_\_\_

For suggested topics, see the DVD collection of titles at: <https://sharedlearning.us/members/library-dvds/>