

UC OLLI - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

2022 Courses

Winter 2022

2216 Public Lands-Sacred Spaces

Presidents Clinton and Obama used the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect millions of acres of public land by creating national monuments. The Sagebrush Rebellion, which began in the 1970s, seeks to transfer ownership of public land to the states so it can be exploited. The fight over federal land began with the passage of the Federal Land Ordinance of 1785. This course, first presented in 2018, covers the some-times contentious history of federal land. New material will follow a shortened recap of the earlier presentation. Moderator: Bill Menrath recently retired from UC College of Medicine where he did research in environmental and occupational health. He also served as director of the Great Lakes OSHA Education Center and worked for the UN Environment Programme to assist Chinese laboratories develop quality control methods for analyzing environmental samples.

5006 ONLINE: How Do We Deal with Uncertainty in Science? Lessons from an Astronomer

Since early times people have looked to the skies and tried to explain what they saw. How does the universe work? What do our measurements tell us? For all our successes, history warns that our understanding is incomplete and subject to change. What have we learned about dealing with uncertainty? Can we understand our limitations in a way that helps us? What lessons can we apply to our everyday lives as consumers of science? What questions should we ask? How does one find reliable information in the marketplace of ideas? Moderator: Christopher Jacobs, raised and educated in Anderson Township, is a scientist at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA's solar system exploration center. He makes star maps for interplanetary navigation. He has contributed to 300 papers and spoken professionally across six continents.

3403 Let's Get Down to Earth

Using excerpts from *The Nature of Earth: An Introduction to Geology* by Professor John Renton for Great Courses, supplemented with other resources, we'll discuss the origins of the universe and the stars beginning with the Big Bang, look at ways to find the distance to stars and galaxies, touch on dark matter and dark energy, and show how cosmic dust makes new stars and us. Down on Earth, we'll explore plate tectonics, how bonds in chemical elements make rocks and graphene, and the relationship between climate and types of soils. Moderator: Richard Longshore, MD, is a graduate of XU and Univ. of Louisville College of Medicine. He is NOT a geologist or astrophysicist, but he has an interest in what we see around us.

2813 How Does the US Rank, 2022? A Top-Ten Summary

We'll look at global factors like incomes, deductions, and taxes; environment and pollution; energy sources; healthcare costs and outcomes; education levels and achievement; life expectancy and paid vacations; religiosity and atheism; national prosperity index; murder and

crime rates; a change readiness index; happiest and most competitive countries; “best” countries ranked; where to be born in 2022; and more. All charts and links to data sources will be provided to you in advance. This is the fourth year for the compilation of credible survey rankings and the most comprehensive yet. Moderator: Doug Stowell has been a national OLLI Instructor since 2018. His career includes director of market research for the Xerox Corp.; US director for the UK firm National Opinion Polling, Ltd.; and senior consultant with Wirthlin Polling in DC. He opened his own firm in 2002 and continues today conducting global consumer-issues surveys and lecturing on global issues.

1210: Saving the Planet . . . with Your Fork!

Can altering your eating habits have a significant impact on reducing the effects of climate change? The meat and dairy industries are major contributors of greenhouse gasses. Artist and environmental activist William Messer served on Cincinnati’s Environmental Advisory Board and chaired the Green Cincinnati Plan’s Food Action Team, for which he authored the Meat Consumption Reduction Recommendation, described as doing “more to reduce the effects of climate change than any of the 80+ other recommendations.” Messer will help us understand how we can effect change by what we eat.

1618: Who Speaks for Nature?

The Ohio River is the most polluted river in the US. Our present system protects corporate property rights and profits but does not recognize the rights of the natural world to flourish. Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed (CROW) is actively seeking a paradigm shift to empower citizens to take responsibility for protecting ecosystems. This interactive, multimedia course will cover the extent of the damage, failures of government, how this international grassroots movement is working, and how we can help the Ohio River thrive again. Moderator: Susan VonderHaar is a retired environmental scientist, educator, and lifelong advocate for nature. She worked as a researcher at the US EPA and as an adjunct college instructor at multiple Cincinnati-area campuses. She currently is an informal nature educator for K–12 schools and founding member of CROW.

1206: CROWN—Tri-State Trails

Rachel Culley, Tri-State Trails’ Trail and Bikeway Coordinator, will give an overview of Tri-State Trails as an organization as well as a presentation on one of the organization’s main projects, CROWN. CROWN (Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network) is a vision for a contiguous, off-road, 34-mile, shared-use path encompassing Cincinnati. The vision connects Wasson Way, Little Miami Scenic Trail, Ohio River Trail, and Mill Creek Greenway. Tri-State Trails believes CROWN will transform the way people navigate our city while creating healthier communities.

2808 Great Decisions: Climate Change

The ideological divide in the US on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the US play in future negotiations on climate? This program is presented in collaboration with the World Affairs

Council of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky and the Foreign Policy Association. Moderators: Pat Niskodé, PhD, adjunct professor, Miami U. Richard Lauf, PhD (board member), Michelle Harpenau (Executive Director), and Erika Lundstedt (Global Education Manager), World Affairs Council, Cincinnati and Northern KY.

2212 Finding Solutions to America's Problems

This is the 12th OLLI course using the National Issues Forum (NIF) public deliberation process. We will weigh alternatives from various courses of action using NIF issues guides. You are encouraged to express, listen to, and consider all points of view. Discussions involve these major issues: 1) Climate Choices: How Should We Meet the Challenges of a Warming Planet? 2) School, Interrupted: How Should We Teach in a Pandemic? 3) What Should We Do about the Opioid Epidemic? Moderator: Kent Friel, MBA, UC, 1965. Former business owner and Community Fellow with Knowledge Works Foundation. He is a trained moderator in the deliberation process by the NIF, a subsidiary of the Kettering Foundation.

2424: Innovating to Reduce Poverty and Supporting Families' Self-Sufficiency

Moira Weir, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati; Audrey Treasure of the Cincinnati Chamber, VP and Executive Director of the Workforce Innovation Center; and Sister Sally Duffy, community volunteer, will share information about their collaborative efforts to create systemic solutions that support long-term success for families. Workforce Innovation Center consults with companies to advance the adoption of inclusive practices to meet business goals and support employees. Project Lift is a public/private partnership that helps families remove barriers to securing sustainable income and achieving financial stability.

3604 Your Hard-Earned Possessions: Downsizing, Donating, and Recycling

Jack Brendamour, CEO of Junk King, is an expert in downsizing. He'll help you understand the best outlets for disposing of or recycling different household items along with other downsizing suggestions. As you let go of your sometimes-sentimental possessions, it's helpful to receive donating and recycling advice that considers what is best for our community and the environment.

Fall 2022

4006 Energy from the Wind

Carl Bishop, PhD, will discuss the principles of wind energy. He'll explain how a wind turbine functions and how the amount of power they generate is calculated. He'll also describe wind farms, including off-shore facilities. Bishop is a chemist who worked with Department of Energy contractors for 32 years. After retiring, he spent 17 years teaching part time at Miami University, Hamilton.

6027 Protecting and Preserving Nature from the Mill Creek to the Great Miami River

No need to drive far to discover eagles, migrating birds, wildflowers, hiking trails, beauty, and solitude. Discover how the Western Wildlife Corridor and Oxbow Inc. protect, restore, preserve, and share with the community the natural habitat along the Ohio River between the Mill Creek

and the Great Miami River. Moderators: Jon Seymour has been President of the Board of Oxbow, Inc. for nearly 20 years. Matt Taylor and Joyce Richter are members of the Board of Trustees of Western Wildlife Corridor.

2450 Sustainability: The Greening of America

Increase your awareness of the vital importance of sustainability in our global community. This course introduces sustainability and explores how to balance economic, social, and environmental change for everyone's long-term benefit. Sustainability is the oversight for managing our present resource needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs and without undue damage to the wider global environment. Guest speakers bring their practical expertise to impart their sustainability knowledge that encompasses learning how to lead individual, organizational, and societal change from a multidisciplinary perspective. Moderator: Ralph Brueggemann, MBA, MEd, is an adjunct professor at the UC College of Engineering and Applied Science. He has experience in independent consulting, quality improvement, nonprofit board experience, and developing commercial products for national and international corporations.

2116 Documenting Democracy

The first four weeks will feature documentaries about environmental issues including nuclear power and its tie to military weaponry. The last four films will be about understanding democracy in relation to protection of citizens' rights and the rights of nature. Films will run 60 to 90 minutes with additional time for discussion. Moderator: Lynn Hamamoto likes to share rare and award-winning documentaries and discuss them with other interested people.

2225 Finding Solutions to America's Problems

his is the 13th OLLI course using the National Issues Forum (NIF) public deliberation process. We will weigh alternatives from various courses of action using NIF issues guides. You are encouraged to express, listen to, and consider all points of view. Discussions include these major issues: 1) A Nation in Debt: How Can We Pay the Bills? 2) Land of Plenty: How Should We Ensure that People Have the Food They Need? 3) What is the 21st-Century Mission for Our Public Schools? Moderator: Kent Friel, MBA, UC, 1965. Former business owner and Community Fellow with the KnowledgeWorks Foundation. He is a trained moderator by the NIF, a subsidiary of the Kettering Foundation.

2320 Let's Talk Science

Scientific research plays a critical role in our lives. Whether it's medicine, the social sciences, materials, engineering, the environment, or new products and processes, scientific work is important. Topics will be provided for the first meetings while class participants with a special interest or expertise are invited to lead later meetings if they desire. The goal is to provide information, facilitate conversation, entertain, and inspire—something like Science Friday or the NOVA series. Moderators: Thomas Cislo is a retired risk manager with interests in engineering, energy, and environmental issues. Juris Mezinskis is a retired psychologist with an interest in understanding what constitutes scientific evidence and in worldwide public policy efforts related to alcohol and drug use.

5033 / 5034 (Welcome to the Ice Age in Cincinnati)

It was only 20,000 year ago that an ice sheet had terminated just north of Sharonville. The environment was completely different from what we know today, and changes in the climate are used as a model for what we are experiencing now. Lets explore the Pleistocene past, the plants and animals that were once here, and what the Ice Age can tell us about our warming climate today. Moderator: Brenda Hunda received her BS with honors in paleontology and her MS in earth sciences from Univ. of Alberta. She received her PhD in earth sciences from Univ. of California, Riverside in 2004. She is currently Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology at Cincinnati Museum Center, and adjunct professor in the geology department at UC.