

**ALIR**  
**Academy of**  
**Learning in Retirement**  
*a continuing education program*

**Fall 2019**

**North East I.S.D. Community Education**

8750 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78217

(210) 407-0167

**2019-20 ALIR Council**

Helen Baker

Paul Cavazos

Tom Colbourn

Judy Callier

Gladys Koranek

Geoff Leech

Bill Lewis

Joanne McGowan

Elizabeth Neely

Estela Royal

Laurie Stiteler

## Academy of Learning in Retirement

### Mission Statement

Through volunteerism, the Academy of Learning in Retirement (ALIR), believing in lifelong learning, recognizes and utilizes its members' wealth of experience and abilities to achieve educational stimulation in the arts, history, literature, languages, and sciences.

### History

The Academy of Learning in Retirement (ALIR) was established in 1989 as an extension of the University of Texas at San Antonio with Dr. John Lane and his wife Marci as catalysts.

Dr. Lane envisioned an **all-volunteer learning academy** patterned after an extension of the University of Delaware, which offered a variety of classes to an over-55 crowd. He recognized that too many retirees settle into a pattern of inactivity and have no outlet for their love of intellectual engagement. The academy would provide this and would also satisfy the need for stimulating human contact. He presented the idea to UTSA, which reacted favorably.

In February 1989, ALIR opened its doors at the Institute of Texan Cultures under the aegis of UTSA. Eleven courses were offered to 61 members. Over its years at ITC, ALIR grew steadily, reaching a peak of about 50 classes. But in 2005, ALIR lost its home due to the burgeoning growth of UTSA and its need for downtown space. The search began for a new campus home.

Happily, North East Independent School District (NEISD) welcomed ALIR to its Community Education Department in the spring of 2006, offering comfortable classrooms, administrative services in support of ALIR's volunteer instructors, and the opportunity for ALIR to be included in its widely-distributed continuing education catalog.

Today, more than 650 intellectually curious, over-50, San Antonians are members. Now a **501(c)(3) corporation**, ALIR remains a continuing legacy of John and Marci Lane and a valuable resource for lifelong learners.

### Contact

Classes are held at the North East Community Learning Center, 8750 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio, near Hwy 410 and Nacogdoches. There's ample free parking.

For questions or more information, contact **Rhonda McRae, ALIR Facilitator**, at (210)407-0167, or visit [www.neisd.net/Page/875](http://www.neisd.net/Page/875).

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## Dates to Remember – Fall 2019

Jul 22 (Mon)	Registration for Fall 2019 classes
Sept 3 (Tue)	Instructors' meeting
Sept 4 (Wed)	New Student Orientation
Sept 9 (Mon)	Classes begin (1 <sup>st</sup> 6-week classes & all 12-week)
Oct 7 (Mon)	Monthly Luncheon
Oct 21 (Mon)	2 <sup>nd</sup> 6-week classes begin
Nov 5 (Tues)	Monthly Luncheon
Nov 21 (Thurs)	Art exhibition & performing arts show
Nov 25-29 (week)	ALIR/NEISD Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
Dec 4 (Wed)	Monthly Luncheon
Dec 5 (Thurs)	Final day of classes for Fall term
Dec 6 (Fri)	Registration for Spring 2020 classes

## How to Register

- All persons age 50+ are welcome at ALIR. A single fee each term allows you to attend as many classes that term as you want; further fee details are on the registration form.
- Registration is required. A registration form is included with this catalog or can be accessed at the NEISD website: [www.neisd.net/Page/875](http://www.neisd.net/Page/875).
- Each term extends for 12 weeks, although some classes run for only the term's first six weeks, some for only the second six weeks. *Check the listing.*
- Classes have a maximum enrollment of 37; if instructors have set a smaller maximum number, it is noted at the end of the class description.
- **Fall Registration is on Monday, July 22 from 8:30 – 11:00 am**, in the NEISD Community Learning Center building. In-person registrations are processed in the order received; you may register for yourself and one other person only.
- If you can't register that morning, you can mail in your registration form, or register at the ALIR office during most business hours. Online or phone registrations are not available.
- To allow room for new ALIR students, register *only* for those classes you are sure you will attend. There is no penalty for dropping a class, but as a courtesy please let the instructor and Rhonda McRae know if you do.
- You'll receive an email confirming the courses in which you are enrolled. Review it carefully. If one of your choices was full, don't give up hope! Openings do occur after classes begin; speak with the instructor or with Rhonda McRae for later availability.

## Lunch

An important part of ALIR is the **daily community lunchtime** (12:15-1:00) when we continue discussions and become better acquainted – so please, bring a lunch! Microwaves are available, and vending machine beverages/snacks may be purchased. Three times each term, a **monthly luncheon** brings the entire “student body” together for good food, camaraderie, and conversation.

## Our Community Standards

ALIR students are expected to be respectful of others at all times. Disrespectful actions that are based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference or religious beliefs will not be tolerated. ALIR students participating in any form of harassment or intimidation, including verbal, non-verbal, graphic, written, or physical contact that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards a member(s) of the above groups, may be subject to disciplinary action by the ALIR Council, including expulsion.

# ART & ART APPRECIATION

**New!**

## **Dutch Art in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

Marilyn Ellis

**Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45**

Starting in the 1500s, a remarkable two-century-long explosion of innovative and masterful art was centered in the small country of Holland. This course will examine the artistic accomplishments of a true golden age. Prof. William Kloss will be our basic course designer and guide per his Great Courses® lectures series.

## **The Private Life of a Masterpiece, Part 2**

Barbara Maphet, M.A.

**Tuesday 1:00 - 2:15**

Join this class for an in-depth look at the full and fascinating stories behind ten famous works of art – how they came to be created, how they influenced other works, and how each one came to have a life of its own in the modern world.

## **Mixed Media Art**

Stanley Unser

**Tuesday 9:30 - 12:15**

We will explore the use of collage and image transfer techniques in combination with various artistic media to create abstract and representational works. All experience levels are welcome. A voluntary \$5 supply fee is suggested; additional supply suggestions will be provided in class. (Max 20)

## **Basic Watercolor**

Jeanette Lowell

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

**Monday 11:00 - 12:15**

Discover the fun of watercolor! Students of all levels are welcome; instruction is offered for beginners. Supplies will be furnished in order to complete the first lesson – or bring any paints and brushes you already have. A supply list is available. *The 11:00 class is a repeat of the 9:30 class, sign up for **just one**.* (Max 20, each class)

## **Acrylic Painting**

Valentina Messer

**Wednesday 9:30 - 12:15**

In this beginning acrylic painting class, students will learn multiple foundational painting techniques, including the basic rules of linear and aerial perspective, and the basic rules of composition, still life and landscape. (Max 20)

**New!**

**Gothic Calligraphy**

Mary B. Bowman/Lee Brooks

**Monday 1:00 - 2:15**

Gothic is an elegant script that is still relevant and popular today for certificates and treatises. We will cover the elegant capitals which begin a work, as well as lower case basics. A \$5 paper projects fee is requested and pens etc. may be purchased in class. Calligraphy is not recommended for left-handed people, but it's not impossible when very motivated. (Max 15)

**New!**

**Fundamentals of Photography, Part 2**

Don Hall

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

National Geographic photographer John Sartore, founder of the Photo Ark, a 20-year project to photograph every captive species on earth, uses the Great Courses® format to teach a broad range of photo topics; our instructor adds knowledgeable insights to class discussions. Situations and topics to be covered will include light, around/in water, shadows, backlighting, studio lighting, small light, nighttime, portraits, event shooting, smartphone photography, and more!

**Beginning Zen Painting**

Mary B. Bowman/Lauren O'Neal

**Tuesday 1:00 - 2:15**

This class will cover the basics of this ancient Asian art that is so relevant today – a few strokes suggesting so much. Each week after orientation, we will paint a different subject for postcards or gift wrap. A \$5 paper fee is requested; other basic materials may be purchased in class during the first meeting. (Max 22)

**New!**

**Continuing Zen Painting**

Mary B. Bowman

**Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15**

This class will allow continuing students to practice this mindful way of self-expression while painting products such as notecards and gift wrap. We will select a different subject each week – some needing a few basic strokes, others (such as landscapes) needing many strokes. A \$5 paper fee is requested; other materials will be available for purchase in class. (Max 22)

## **Pastels**

Barbara J. Gadsby/Ingrid Hetrick

### **Thursday 9:30 - 12:15**

This class is for anyone interested in learning pastel painting. Pastels are sticks of pure brilliant pigment, not colored chalk, which we'll use to create beautiful works of art. We'll discuss color, composition, contrast, proportion and mood. Together, we'll explore various surfaces, techniques and styles. Come, discover the artist that lives in you! A supply list will be available after registration. (Max 18)

## **New!**

### **Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain**

Sue Telle

#### **Wednesday 9:30 - 12:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

This hands-on class is based on the book *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* by Betty Edwards. The instructor will guide you through activities that will call on the strengths of the right hemisphere of the brain to counteract left-brain emphasis prevalent in American life. Bring a 9 x 12 spiral-bound drawing pad, eraser and #2 pencil. There will be a \$2 fee payable to the instructor on the first day of class for the cost of objects to draw.

## **COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY**

### **Beginning Computer**

Sylvia Braye

#### **Monday 1:00 - 2:15**      **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

If you're new to the computer, or want to review fundamentals, this class is for you. Students will learn computer basics in a hands-on setting, including how to use a mouse and keyboard. No need for typing skills ... and there are NO dumb questions! (Max 20)

### **Computer Applications**

Thomas Lake

#### **Monday 11:00 - 12:15**

Learn the latest Microsoft® Office and Windows 10 programs, including Word®, Excel® and PowerPoint®. Specifically, we'll cover word processing (creating documents); spreadsheets (creating budgets and calculations); and presentations (designing classroom lessons and photo shows). (Max 20)

### **iPad® Adventures**

Helen Baker

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Let's dig into different aspects of using our iPads! This interactive class is not a beginner class; some basic knowledge of the iPad is required. Some adventures we'll go on together will include email, entertainment and communication. *Having an iPad is required; please bring one with you. (Max 20)*

### **Digital Photography and Graphic Arts**

Thomas Lake

**Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15**

Areas of focus will be: using your digital camera, organizing your photos and creating fun projects using your photos, including greeting cards, calendars and signs. We'll also learn some fundamentals of PowerPoint® and Publisher®. Basic computer literacy is necessary to get the most from this class. (Max 20)

## **ECONOMICS/SCIENCE/MATH**

### **Unexpected Economic Interactions**

Bill Howland

**Thursday 11:00 - 12:15**

This is not your typical economics course, as Dr. Timothy Taylor guides you through up to 24 unique subject areas in this Great Courses® presentation which covers a wide range of interesting (and often unexpected) topics. Economics interacts in each one because people make decisions and choices about allocating limited resources in an environment of constantly changing costs and benefits.

### **Today's Global Economy**

Bill Mitchell

**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45**

We will examine globalization's effects on countries, firms, communities and people. The sessions will explore how the past 25 years of trade agreements like NAFTA have changed the rules of business and affected US jobs and wages, including the outsourcing of jobs to other countries. Class conversations about how exports and imports are used in the global battle for profit will be placed in context of their longer-term effect on communities and people. (Max 30)

## **Business and Society**

Bill Mitchell

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

This course will examine the nature of business in American society, its role in creating jobs and economic benefits, as well as unintended costs such as plant closings and lost jobs. The role of government in overseeing markets and firms will be discussed in the context of “free market capitalism” and consideration will be given to when regulation is appropriate. The class will examine the nature of business models, profit and competitive strategy, as well as the concept of stakeholders and the primary mission of business leaders. (Max 30)

## **What’s Happening to the Mall?**

Bill Mitchell

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

The retail landscape is changing dramatically. Formerly successful retail business models struggle to survive as newer business models experience striking success. Amazon, digital marketing, and an internet where you can buy anything from anywhere (and get it in two days) have changed retailing’s rules. We’ll cover the history of U.S. retailing since the end of WWII, its current status, and where it could be heading. Who will be the winners and losers? (Max 30)

## **Algebra Appreciation**

Jaromir (Jerry) Becan, MS

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

This class – intended for people who didn’t do well in math during their school days -- will discuss major topics in algebra. The basics will be covered, along with real-life examples showing where the concepts are put to use. After taking the course you should be better prepared for, and more confident about, additional math studies. (Max 30)

## **New!**

### **Global Change in the Earth System**

Stephen Ackley

**Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Led by a UTSA Associate Professor, this class will review the scientific evidence of human-induced climate change and follow the far-reaching effects on the entire earth system, as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These include the rise in global surface temperature; ocean warming, less winter snow cover, and the melting of Arctic sea ice/glaciers. We’ll examine the impacts of these and other changes in terms of severity, frequency, extremes, ecosystems threats and sea level rises.

**New!**

**DNA, The Blueprint of Life**

Sue Oppenheimer

**Monday 11:00 - 12:15**

DNA provides a biological blueprint for all life. Using various PBS videos, the class will cover the basic information about DNA's form and function, as well as the history behind the discovery of its structure. We'll also look at some current applications of DNA technology to genetics, criminal justice, agriculture, medicine and reproduction.

**How the Earth Was Made**

Fran Sullentrop

**Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15**

We will view videos from the History Channel series that reveal physical processes which have shaped some of the world's best-known locations and geological phenomena. The videos will not be repeats of those shown in the Fall 2018 course of the same name.

**New!**

**The Art of Investing: Lessons from History's Greatest Traders**

Drake Leddy

**Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15**

We've all heard the familiar rules for investing, but this class will take a look at financiers and traders who have had exceptional success from their often unorthodox investment strategies. With Prof. John Longo's Great Courses® talks as our guide, we'll learn more about the mindset of these fascinating personalities and take a peek into the world of financial markets.

**New!**

**In the Beginning**

Patti Young

**Thursday 1:00 - 2:15**

"In the beginning" is the standard storyteller's opening, and this is the story of humanity. Jumping off the Great Courses® series "Prehistory of Ancient Humanity" led by anthropologist Dr. Brian Fagan, we will discuss humanity from *homo erectus* to *homo sapiens*, from man the tool maker to modern humans. Students are encouraged to share articles and other resources relating to mankind's development to stimulate learning and discussion.

## GENERAL STUDIES/CURRENT EVENTS

**New!**

**Enlightenment Now:**

**The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress**

Tom Gaines/Joanne McGowan

**Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45**

If you think the world is looking bleak, look again! The facts demonstrate that life, health, prosperity, safety, peace, knowledge and happiness are on the rise worldwide. Together we'll read the book *Enlightenment Now* (Penguin Books, 2018) by Harvard über-Professor Steven Pinker, which Bill Gates called "my new favorite book of all time." Each week we'll have a lively discussion regarding a chapter – required reading is necessary for this book club/study type of class.

**Beginning Genealogy, Continued**

Carole Bancroft

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

This class will focus on continuing your research in genealogy. We'll exchange information and share ways to research and set up your family tree. Working together, we will help find your roots. (Max 20)

**New!**

**Finding the Truth in Political Ads**

George Blair

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Politicians are sold to us using the same techniques used to sell laundry soap. Just in time for the coming political season, learn how we all are manipulated using propoganda hidden in slick political ads, how to spot and overcome the deception, and how to find the actual facts for yourself. (Max 25)

**New!**

**Dream On**

Joanne McGowan

**Thursday 1:00 - 2:15**

Everyone dreams – but what is a dream? Does it have meaning? We'll examine the psychological process of dreaming; what's happening in our brain; what the purpose of dreaming is; and why some people remember their dreams while others don't. What is a clairvoyant or lucid dream? We'll also attempt to assess dreams' meanings and emotional insights. We'll learn a nurturing and holistic approach to sleep, dreams and waking well, one that is inspired by mindfulness meditation and yogic philosophy.

## **New!**

### **Nonverbal Communications: Sometimes It's Not What You Say**

Joan Lyons

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

It's not always what you said, or even how you said it – the signals we send may be controlled by more than that. How you look, stand, sit or walk influences what others “hear.” Environment, color and temperature also interplay. We will use a Great Courses® video led by Dr. Mark Frank as the basis of our presentations, discussion, and some role playing. (Max 34)

### **What the Heck is Going On?**

Mel Kanninen/Anita Beizer

**Thursday 9:30 - 10:45**

A relevant current event topic will be selected by one of four instructors (the listed instructors plus Maxine Cohen and John Fagin), who will in turn provide background information to enable a well-informed interactive class discussion.

### **Planning for the Inevitable: A Guide for Baby Boomers**

Peggy and Mason Brown

**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

So much can happen in a moment – a fall or an illness – that suddenly requires quick actions involving finances, legal authority, a new living arrangement, or a home sale. The solution: *have a plan*. This class will cover senior living options, family-focused resources for care management, legal and financial issues, and downsizing/selling a home and setting up a new home. (*The 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-week class is a repeat of the first; sign up for just one.*)

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

### **Mindful Living**

Mark H. Stokes

**Thursday 11:00 - 12:15**

We will discuss and practice a variety of ways – including meditation – to help improve mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health. We will learn to let go of fears, worries and regrets and live in a mindful state; topics include self-mastery, stress management, and living in harmony with the way things are. Eckart Tolle's books are often cited.

**New!**

### **The Twilight Years**

John Spencer

**Thursday 11:00 - 12:15**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

This class will review the “retirement years.” Specifically, the class will cover: research/clinical issues of psychological and physical ‘dis’-abilities; getting your financial life together; legal issues and documents; parenting grown children and grandchildren; and conquering the fears associated with death. Several specialists in these areas will teach and lead informed discussions.

### **Conversations with a Psychologist**

Susan Pelzer, Ph.D.

**Monday 1:00 - 2:15**

This long-running ALIR offering welcomes returning and new students both! Participate in wide-ranging conversations on the roles played by philosophy, gratitude, humor and relaxation in psychology.

***ALIRians interested in Health and Wellness might also consider the yoga, tai chi and dance classes listed in Recreation - don't just learn, do!***

## **HISTORY/POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**New!**

### **The History of Religion in America**

Albert D. Kissling

**Thursday 9:30 – 10:45**

The first six weeks will provide the background of European religious influences on the settlement of the original thirteen colonies. The second six weeks will trace the evolution of various denominations and religious groups up to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The instructor will provide written background materials; class will be discussion-oriented. (Max 24)

**New!**

### **Three Disasters, Three Triumphs**

Daniel Rosenthal

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Enjoy six talks about some of the peaks and valleys of French history. The three disasters: Napoleon in 1812, Mr. Maginot in 1940, and the empire-ending battle of Dien Ben Rhu. The three triumphs: Pasteur and his legacy, The Louvre, and ten French inventors. What went on? *Alors, raconte ce qui s'est passé!* (Max 20)

**New!**

**The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns**

Bill Lewis

**Monday 11:00 - 12:15**

This Ken Burns documentary miniseries, widely acclaimed for its skill in depicting and retelling the events of the Civil War, was awarded more than 40 major TV and film honors. It was first viewed in 1990 by 39 million people – perhaps you were one? Join this class for the opportunity to watch the 9-part series again, or for the first time, and to discuss it with other ALIRians.

**New!**

**Mughal India, 1526-1828**

Dr. Nancy Fix Anderson

**Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

In 1536, an Islamic army from Central Asia invaded India and established the Mughal Empire, ruling much of the sub-continent for more than 300 years. We will explore the challenges and legacy of this Muslim rule over predominantly Hindu India. We will also study the cultural richness that resulted from the mixing of religions and traditions, which produced such jewels as the Taj Mahal. Finally, we will consider the coming of Europeans which resulted in the British conquest of the Mughal Empire.

**New!**

**Military Grand Strategy through the Ages**

Geoff Leech

**Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

This course examines key strategic decisions that changed the course of history, as interpreted by Prof. John Lewis Gaddis in his new book *On Grand Strategy* (ISBN 978-1 594203510). Course format will feature lectures, several DVD selections from various sources, and class discussion. Major events covered include the battle of Salamis, the Roman Legionaries under Augustus, the British victory over the Spanish Armada, and wars in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Battle of the Alamo: The Rest of the Story**

Don Glessner

**Thursday 1:00 - 2:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

The story of this iconic battle is well known, so we will focus on people and events rarely found in the history books. We will also separate myth from historical reality. The instructor has been a student of this battle for 25+ years and has served as a docent at the Alamo.

**New!**

**How Winston Churchill Changed the World**

Philip D. Freeman

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

Let's thoroughly explore Churchill's accomplishments, complexities, and legacy. This Great Courses® series with Prof. Michael Sheldon delves into Churchill's military leadership during the World Wars; his personal relationships with family and friends; his abiding passion for history, literature and public speaking; and his political relationships with other historical giants of his time. Unfurl the story of the man who helped not just Britain but all humanity prevail during dark times.

**The Real Ulysses S. Grant ... Plus**

Jane Cavazos/Paul Cavazos

**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45**

This course presents a comprehensive cradle-to-grave biography of Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War hero and two-term U.S. President. The class will be taught using PowerPoint® presentations, videos and class discussion. The final two weeks will be devoted to viewing the PBS film *Death and the Civil War* which explores how the staggering loss of 600,000 soldiers led to a new national consciousness and the development of the National Cemetery System. (Max 20)

**New!**

**History of Mexico**

Jaime Pankowsky MD

**Thursday 9:30 - 10:45**

This class will take a close look at the history of our neighbor to the south, from early native civilizations to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**New!**

**Film Study: The Salt of the Earth**

George Blair

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

We will watch and discuss *The Salt of the Earth*, the only film ever banned in the U.S. Crafted during the turbulent McCarthy era, we will cover the background and events that led to this film, then watch and discuss the film in detail.

**New!**

**The World Was Never the Same**

Pamela Ferguson

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**

What events truly changed the world? The engaging storyteller and historian Prof. Rufus Fears has a list, and this Great Courses® class will take you along on a wide-ranging ride – perhaps we'll include his lectures on Hammurabi, Moses, Caesar, Columbus, The Black Death, Michelangelo, Luther, Darwin or more.

**New!**

### **Churchill**

Pamela Ferguson

**Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

This Great Courses® lecture series by Prof. J. Rufus Fears looks at Churchill as a multifaceted, and often controversial, man of his times. In his life, Churchill was a successful politician, a visionary statesman, a brilliant orator, a soldier and military strategist, an author who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, a landscape painter, and a man of strong family ties – with an American mother!

**New!**

### **The Steppe Nomads**

Bernard Rauch

**Monday 1:00 - 2:15**

Discover how nomads repeatedly emerged from the Eurasian steppes, exerting pressure on sedentary populations and causing a domino effect of displacement and cultural exchange. Great Courses® lecturer Kenneth Hart guides us from antiquity to the 13<sup>th</sup> century rise of the Mongols to investigate the impact these nomads had on the Roman Empire, Chinese dynasties, and distant cultures from Russia to India.

### **Turning Points in American History (Part 1)**

Tom Colbourn

**Tuesday 1:00 - 2:15**

Is history a gradual evolution or can a single person or event change its direction forever? Has America followed an inevitable history or is it full of surprises? This two-part (hence two term) highly-rated Great Courses® lecture series presented by Dr. Edward O'Donnell will take a deep look at key events in American history that have caused sudden and dramatic change.

**New!**

### **Coming to America**

Susanne O'Brien

**Thursday 9:30 - 10:45**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Immigration is a widely-discussed topic today, and this class aims to provide some context, as it is an overview of immigration to America from the 1500s to today. We will look at who came, where they came from, why they came, what the people who were already here thought and what laws and policies evolved to deal with the newcomers. Some videos will be used to help tell this important story.

# LANGUAGES

## **Intermediate/Advanced Spanish: Fluency in Everyday Conversations**

Suzette H. Pelayo, MA

**Thursday 9:30 - 10:45**

Have you (probably as a non-native speaker) studied Spanish over the years, but never progressed to your desired level of proficiency? If you understand, speak, read and/or write some Spanish, but lack correct verb forms, vocabulary and fluency, this course is for you. We'll use the book *Spanish Conversation* by Dr. Jean Yates (ISBN 978-1-259-58636-1); please bring a copy to the first class. Get over the hump and advance to the next level! (Max 20)

**New!**

## **Leyendas Mexicanas**

Mary Martínez

**Tuesday 1:00 - 2:15**

This class will read *Leyendas Mexicanas*, a collection of Mexican legends and tales (ISBN 10 0844 273872) written in the Spanish language. Together, we'll discuss the legends, review unfamiliar vocabulary, and answer comprehension questions, all using Spanish. (Max 20)

## **Beginning Spanish**

María Zambrano/Lourdes Cervantes

**Thursday 1:00 - 2:15**

In this introductory class, we will practice basic conversational vocabulary and expressions, such as greetings, food, likes and dislikes, etc. No book is needed as the instructor provides illustrated handouts.

## **Intermediate Spanish**

Luis Carlos Rodriguez

**Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15**

This class will focus on grammar, with extensive student participation. The class will use the book *Easy Spanish – Step by Step* by Barbara Bregstein (ISBN: 978-0-07-146338-6, either edition is fine). (Max 20)

## **Intermediate German**

Frederick F. Prassel

**Thursday 11:00 - 12:15**

As an intermediate course, this class will focus on pronunciation, phonetics, vocabulary building, grammar and *Deutsch Volkslieder*. We will use the book *German Made Simple* by Dr. Arnold Leitner (ISBN 0-7679-1860-6), available from online booksellers. (Max 20)

## **Intermediate Italian**

Fedora Saunders

**Monday 1:00 - 2:15**

This class is designed for students who have taken the two previous Italian courses at ALIR. This term, all verb forms are to be studied. Extensive student participation is central to this class – *Arbivederci in Autunno!* (Max 25)

## **LITERATURE & CREATIVE WRITING**

**New!**

### **The Death of Santini – Pat Conroy's Life in Memoir**

Marie (Bobbie) Bernal

**Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45**

For those of you who enjoyed *The Prince of Tides* and *The Great Santini*, or any of Conroy's other novels, come join our class and learn about the life of this fascinating writer in his memoir, *The Death of Santini* (ISBN 978-0-385-34352-7). This is a discussion class, not a lecture class. On the first day, please arrive prepared to discuss the Prologue, and Chapters 1 and 20. (Max 20)

**New!**

### **Shakespeare: Quirky and Smirky**

Patricia Lonchar

**Tuesday 1:00 - 2:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Mistaken identities, cross-dressing, sarcasm, puns, irony, wit ... Shakespeare uses them all (and more) to create his comedies, histories, and tragedies. Join us for a short exploration of the art and power of humor, à la the Bard.

### **Memoir Writing**

Marian Edson

**Monday 11:00 - 12:15**

Everyone has a unique story to tell and every life can teach us some lessons. Come join our memoir writing class to be inspired to write and share your own. This class continues ALIR's 21-year-long legacy of offering a friendly, fun, approach to corralling our memories.

### **Writers Workshop I**

Jean Jackson

**Monday 11:00 - 12:15**

Do you love to read, jot a line now and then, maybe even have a novel, short story, memoir or book of poems in mind? Join us as we learn the craft of good writing. Learn to put thoughts on paper; develop characters, dialogue, plot and setting; organize a finished product. (Max 25)

## **Writers Workshop II**

David H. Plylar, BBA, MA/Jean Jackson

**Wednesday 11:00 - 2:15**

This class is designed for those who write fiction and non-fiction, short stories, poems, essays and full-length books. Class will meet in a critique group setting. Students will assist one another in editing and manuscript revision. Time permitting, the instructor and others, including possible guest speakers, may lead mini lessons on various topics relating to the writers' craft. Bring a lunch. (Max 20)

## **Poetry Writing**

Jean Jackson/Barbara Lazar

**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45**

Learn how line, image, sound, rhythm, rhyme, figurative language and white space work together to make a poem. We will read, write and share poetry. (Max 20)

**New!**

## **Classics of Dark Fiction**

Amanda Churchill-Bergman

**Thursday 11:00 - 12:15**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Call it dark, call it horror, call it fascinating. No blood and gore, but shivers and – if we're doing it right – insight. Works like *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *The Haunting of Hill House*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *Rosemary's Baby* all have a lot to say about their own time and ours. Don't be timid! Explore the darkness and see how it can lead to light.

## **MUSIC/FILM/DRAMA**

**New!**

### **Hitch Another Ride with Alfred: Three Thrillers "Re-Viewed"**

Joanna McKinnis

**Thursday 1:00 - 2:15**

**1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Led by an instructor who taught film for many years at UTSA, this class will study three of Hitchcock's most psychological films in their entirety and discuss some of the influences on, for example, his camerawork, casting, and color choices. Some of these influences include Freud, Nietzsche, De Quincey, art, birds, and even a cat.

**New!**

**Lovers of the Silver Screen – and One Odd Couple**

William (Bill) Boon/Antone Rezendes

**Tuesday 9:30 - 12:15** **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Relish watching these classic duos, up from the archives. Films shown will be: *Marriage Italian Style* (Loren & Mastroianni, 1964), *The Quiet Man* (Wayne & O'Hara, 1952), *Queen Christina* (Gilbert & Garbo, 1933), *Woman of the Year* (Tracey & Hepburn, 1942), *The Big Sleep* (Bogart & Bacall, 1946) and *My Little Chickadee* (Fields & West, 1940). (Max 20)

**New!**

**The Best Journalism Films**

Fran Stelzriede

**Thursday 9:30 - 12:15** **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Stop the presses! Join us as we watch how print and broadcast journalists get their stories, at least on the silver screen. We'll view and discuss six films in terms of plot, characterization and theme: *Citizen Kane*, *Network*, *State of Play*, *All the President's Men*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, and *The Post*.

**New!**

**Playing Acoustic Guitar**

John Hollingsworth

**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45** **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Do you own a guitar that you yearn to play? This class will explore the acoustic guitar, starting with the mastering of three elemental chords. Bring your own instrument, an electronic tuner and a CAPO. (Max 12)

**Intro to the Ukulele**

Helen Cintron/Rudy Salazar/Bob Carlson

**Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45**

The ukulele is the easiest stringed instrument to play. Learn three or four chords, and you can play an endless number of songs. You will need to bring a ukulele, music stand and tuner. (If you don't have a ukulele, we can help you select the best for your needs.) It's all about having fun! (Max 20)

**Ukulele II**

Rudy Salazar/Bob Carlson/Helen Cintron

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

This class is for those who are familiar with the ukulele's basic 3-4 major chords and who have fundamental knowledge of theory and tablature. We'll concentrate on learning easy Hawaiian music and Christmas songs. As always, the focus is having fun making music together while we learn. (Max 20)

### **Sing-Along ALIR**

Judy Howse

**Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15**      **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Singing is good for your body and soul. Come join us in singing the “oldies-but-goodies” that we all remember. We’ll provide the words, and you may sing along, hum, whistle or just listen. (Max 25)

### **New!**

### **Film Appreciation: Gone Too Soon**

Judy Callier

**Monday 9:30 - 12:15**      **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Some wonderful talents have died before their time; in this class we’ll watch a few of them. To whet your whistle, we’ll start with *Rebel Without a Cause* which features three of those “gone too soon” stars – James Dean, Natalie Wood, and Sal Mineo. We’ll also feature a young director, Adrienne Shelly, who was murdered just as her career was ascendant. While these losses are tragic, come celebrate the gifts they left us.

### **Oh Brother, Who Dun It?**

Larry J. Grote

**Monday 1:00 - 2:15**

Calling all mystery fans! This class will follow Sir Derek Jacobi as Brother Cadfael, a medieval monk in war-torn Britain. Based on the best-selling novels by Ellis Peters, these dramas ran on *PBS Mystery* in the early 2000’s. Beautifully produced, each episode is approximately 75 minutes and is a self-contained mystery.

### **Theater in a Circle**

Rachelle Neuman

**Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15**      **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

Theater in a Circle is an opportunity to think outside the box, creatively! Feel the electricity of becoming your own star, in the company of others who love theater. This class will explore readers theater performances, improvisations, story building and theater games/exercises. Let your imagination and natural talent loose as you explore the artist within.

***Film buffs might also consider *The Salt of the Earth* (page 13), or *Twelve Weeks of the Apocalypse* (page 21), both classes featuring film.***

## **PHILOSOPHY/RELIGION/WORLD CULTURES**

**New!**

### **All Things Shaker, Quaker and Amish**

Linda Rogde

**Tuesday 1:00 - 2:15**

We'll look at these three faith groups, from their early history until today, to examine their places in the U.S. culture. Learn how the Amish ("people set apart") have adapted to modern life but kept their individual and group identity. We'll consider Shaker traditions and ask why this group has vanished. And we'll discuss the Colonial beginning of the Quaker movement, and how that faith tradition continues today. Videos and discussions will be our format.

### **Socrates Café**

Mark H. Stokes

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

Inspired by the book *Socrates Café* by Christopher Phillips, the class discusses and delves into philosophical questions of life (e.g. what is truth?). It is not a lecture class on philosophy; students are encouraged to share their ideas and perspectives on the question of the day.

### **The Old Testament (Part 1)**

Julie Ouellette

**Thursday 1:00 - 2:15**

This Great Courses® series will start each week with a 30-minute presentation by professor Amy-Jill Levine. We will also read about and discuss related topics and watch relevant film clips. Handouts will be available every class, and Bibles will be available to use. Part 2 is planned for the Spring term. (Max 30)

**New!**

### **Let's Visit Mexico**

Estela C. Royal

**Monday 1:00 - 2:15**

Mexico is a vast land of colors and contrasts, transformed by the conquest of ancient civilizations, creating a cultural melting pot. Each state of the Republic has its own history, nature and personality. In this class we will explore typical cities, their folklore, traditions, natural wonders and authentic cuisine. This class flows from the instructor's deep knowledge of the country.

**New!**

### **Twelve Weeks of the Apocalypse**

Julie Ouellette

**Monday 9:30 - 12:15**

This class combines both a Bible study of the Book of Revelation and a film study course. Each week there will be a movie with an eschatological theme: *War of the Worlds* (2005 version), *Left Behind* (Trilogy), *On The Beach*, *The Mark*, *Armageddon*, *Contagion*, *Independence Day*, *The Time Machine* (original version), *2012*, and *The Apocalypse*. Handouts and Bibles will be available.

### **Introduction to Southeast Asia**

Joe Harvey

**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45**

This course will move rather quickly through a basic introduction to fascinating Southeast Asia – its glories, its tragedies, and its unsurpassed diversity. The goal is to provide a sampler of the history, cultures, and geography in the region, complemented by discussion of current issues confronting today's Southeast Asian countries.

**New!**

### **Lost Worlds of South America**

Fran Sullentrop

**Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45**

This class, a series of Great Courses® lectures by anthropologist Dr. Edwin Barnhart, covers thousands of years of South American cultures and history, much of which has only come to light recently. It explores amazing new archeological discoveries, as well as what these discoveries tell us about the lives of our ancestors from this still-poorly-understood part of our planet.

## **RECREATION & LEISURE**

### **The Art of Quilting**

Janice Liggett/Lisetta Ennis

**Wednesday 9:30 - 12:15**

This long-running ALIR class covers various quilting and piecing techniques and methods, with a different focus and project each term. Students bring sewing machines to class to work on their individual projects. Contact the instructor for a specific supplies list or with questions at [janicesgarden@att.net](mailto:janicesgarden@att.net). (Max 30)

### **Mountain Dancing (American Folk Dance)**

Linda Carolan

**Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45**

Mountain dancing is folk dancing for fun. Learn easy steps like 1,2,3 (step, step, step) and everyone's favorite step – walking. We'll learn new figures, including Step Right Up and Take a Little Peek, Now Run Home, and Swing Your Sweet, as well as old favorites such as the Virginia Reel and Birdie in the Cage. Enjoy Celtic and other rhythmic tunes, including the class favorite, Mighty Goat. Be prepared to smile and laugh, as well as dance!

### **Brain Games**

Pat Schmitz

**Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15**      **1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks**

This course will use a variety of engaging games to exercise our brains as we work on long-term memory, working memory, attention to detail, processing speed, and other brain functions. Have a laugh while keeping your brain connections going strong! The class is highly interactive – you'll need paper and pencil. (Max 25)

### **Beginning Line Dance**

Eloy Ramirez

**Thursday 9:30 - 10:45**

If you have no experience in line dancing (or any kind of dancing), if you have two left feet, or even if you are just a bit shy – this class is for you! It's so much fun you won't realize you're getting physical as well as mental exercise. (Max 30)

### **New!**

#### **Tai Chi Quan**

William Lee Calhoun

**Tuesday 1:00 - 2:15**

You're invited to join this introduction to the wonderful art of Tai Chi. We will practice breathing, movement and stretching, all at appropriate levels for seniors. In addition, the instructor will share some of the philosophy behind the art of Tai Chi Quan. (Max 25)

#### **Introduction to Tai Chi**

Julie Little

**Thursday 11:00 - 12:15**

This class will introduce you to Tai Chi for health and flexibility. We will learn the first eight moves of the Yang style form. There will be plenty of repetition and practice in order to become familiar with these beneficial movements. (Max 25)

### **Yoga for Flexibility**

Angie Sandquist

**Tuesday 11:00 - 12:15**

This gentle approach to yoga is less intense, non-strenuous and slow-paced. You will do well-measured stretches and range of motion exercises that will equally strengthen and stretch you, increasing your flexibility. Repair those muscles that need love! (Max 25)

### **New!**

#### **Online Dating for Seniors**

Adrien Frank

**Monday 9:30 - 10:45**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Online dating is fun, scary, safe ... and knowledge is power! Have you thought about trying it? First rule of thumb: Know why you are interested and what you are looking for. Friendship? Casual dating? Romance? Marriage? Safety first; we'll learn to protect against scammers. The most popular senior sites have made the process easy. This class will answer your questions, overcome your fears, and help you find companionship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

### **New!**

#### **Basic Holiday Wreath Making**

Connie Zulaica

**Thursday 11:00 - 12:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Learn how to make basic wreaths for the holidays. You will need wire cutters, 22-gauge wire, and floral tape. Both design and practical tips will be shared. Each week, the instructor will email what wreath and materials to buy for the next class. (Max 10)

### **New!**

#### **American Tango**

Barbara J. Gadsby/Ingrid Hetrick

**Thursday 1:00 - 2:15**

This legendary dramatic dance features sharp, staccato movements, as well as sensual cat-like steps. Come learn the basics – it's easier than you think. As always, no experience or partner required.

### **Juggling**

Luz Amelia S. McClellan

**Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15**      **2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks**

Juggling is a great party trick, but did you know that studies at Oxford have shown that mastering this skill enhances the brain connections that process and store visual information? So – let's juggle and become smarter! There's a \$5 fee for bean bags. (Max 10)