

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

at GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

FREE ONLINE CLASSES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR FALL TERM
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The State of the 2020 Presidential Election

Wed. September 23, 2:15–3:40 p.m.
(1 session)

Richard Benedetto is a retired USA Today White House correspondent and columnist.

Taught by a veteran reporter who has covered every presidential campaign since 1984, the class will analyze and assess the 2020 presidential race less than two months before the actual vote. It will touch on major issues such as the economy, health care, coronavirus pandemic, foreign policy, immigration, race relations, voter mood, and the pluses and minuses of the candidates themselves. It also will examine the volatile role the media play in elections.

"Please Sir, Can I Have Some More?" Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*

Wed, Sept. 23–Nov. 4, 9:40–11:05 a.m.
No class Oct. 14 (6 sessions)

Kay Menchel is a lawyer who also holds an MA in English literature from George Mason University.

Oliver Twist presents readers with a panoramic view of London's underworld in the early part of the 19th century. Dickens' work contains a deep and dark satirical vision. Dickens' historical context and his political aims in writing this book will be discussed.

Virtual Tour of the National Portrait Gallery

Mon., Sept. 21–Sept. 28, 2:15–3:40 p.m.
(2 sessions)

Barbara Nelson taught for over 30 years at the secondary level, the last 20 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Sept. 21: Presidential Gallery, the only complete collection of presidential portraits outside of the White House. Discussion will begin with Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington and end with Kehinde Wiley's portrait of Barack Obama.

Sept. 28: Alexander Gardner: Photographer, Innovator, and Artist. This presentation will begin with an examination of early photography and then discuss Gardner's career.

Happiness

Thurs. November 19, 2:15-3:40 p.m.
(1 session)

Heather Dudley taught history, economics, and psychology at Gonzaga High School for 20 years.

The most popular class in the history of Yale University is "The Science of Well Being," which teaches you how to be happier. A search for "happiness" on Amazon produced over 100,000 results. In this lecture we will look at one of the greatest thinkers on the human condition—Aristotle—to discover what he thought was necessary for the happy life.

The Black Death

Tues. Oct. 27–Nov. 10, 9:40–11:05 a.m.
(3 sessions)

Stephanie Campbell attended the College of William and Mary, earning BAs in history and in medieval and renaissance studies.

The 14th century saw one of history's deadliest pandemics unleashed on mankind. The Black Death likely killed a higher percentage of the global population than any other single plague outbreak. We will explore the history of epidemics, including plague outbreaks prior to the Black Death, the 14th-century plague's beginnings in central Asia to its culmination in Western Europe, and finally, post-Black Death outbreaks, which are still occurring today.

**** Special ****

Fall 2020 Promotion!

OLLI is offering a low fee of \$300 for those new to OLLI who purchase an annual membership fall term.

(Available to those who have never been OLLI members, are returning to OLLI after more than a year's hiatus, or have previously been introductory members and haven't converted to an annual membership)

Classes Are Designed for Older Adults.
Questions? Contact: olli@gmu.edu.

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