

OLLI

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

at GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

FREE ONLINE CLASSES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR SUMMER TERM
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Ten Women Writers

Tues. July 7 & July 14, 9:40–11:05 a.m.
(2 sessions)

Kay Menchel holds an MA in English literature from George Mason Univ.

We will examine 10 female writers who are often neglected in the classroom but who are enormously influential. They range from women writing in the Victorian and Edwardian eras to those redefining narrative possibilities today. We will examine novels and stories from multiple countries and consider how gender figures in these works and colors their reception. The 10 writers are: Elizabeth Gaskell, Edith Wharton, Penelope Fitzgerald, Muriel Spark, Nadine Gordimer, Lydia Davis, Louise Erdrich, Mary Carr, Edwidge Danticat, and Nicole Krauss.

De-Mystifying Cryptocurrency

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, July 15
(1 session)

Tom Manteuffel was a software engineer and cybersecurity consultant for 30 years.

Cryptocurrencies have become ubiquitous in recent years, along with other potential uses of the underlying technology known as block-chain. Bitcoin was the first, but dozens more cryptocurrencies have followed. But how exactly do such virtual currencies work? Are they trustworthy? Are they outside the law? Are they really money?

The Politics of the 2020 US Census: Do you Really Count?

Wed. July 22, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
(1 session)

Helen Desfosses is a public policy professor, a former City Council President in Albany, NY, and a long-time consultant on international development.

The Constitution of the United States mandates a census every 10 years. The decennial census is a highly political document in many ways. First of all, it is the basis for politically crucial decisions regarding the makeup and boundaries of congressional and local districts. Second, the decisions on which questions to put into the census are methodological but are also highly political. The controversy around the use of sampling methods in the 2000 census illustrated some important political-geographical dimensions of the decisions about whether and how to be counted in the future.

Perspectives on the 2020 Elections

Wed. July 1, 2-3:30 p.m.
(1 session)

The Honorable Barbara Comstock (Republican, VA-10) served in the US House of Representatives from 2014–2018.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, OLLI will be offering classes providing multiple perspectives on current issues of the day. Representative Comstock, former Republican member of the US House of Representatives, will provide her outlook for the 2020 elections.

iPhone 101

Wed. July 22, 9:40–11:05 a.m.
(1 session)

Cherie Lejeune is a champion for technology awareness and best-use practices for older users.

Turn your iPhone into the true working device that it was meant to be. How many of you use your phone hands-free? Do you know how to send photos to your computer or to a friend who is standing next to you? There are many phone tricks/shortcuts to make you as smart as your smartphone. We will go from the basic use of the phone to using it as a camera, an editing tool, a device to send texts, and whatever else you want or need to know.

Classes Are Designed for Older Adults

Questions about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute?

Contact: olli@gmu.edu

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