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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

////// Fall 2024

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Letter from the Director //////////////////////

Dear Friends:

Welcome to your Osher fall catalog! My name is Jennifer Kraenzle, and I am the new(ish) director of the Osher program at the University of Kansas. Since starting with Osher in June, I have had the pleasure of meeting several participants, instructors and partners; thank you all for the very warm welcome. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to bring world-class learning and enrichment opportunities to our shared community.

The fall 2024 catalog was a true team effort, incorporating different viewpoints resulting in some exciting new classes and programming. Register today by calling 785-864-6779 or by going to osher.ku.edu.

From exciting trips and special events like Unveiling Crimson Glory, which offers exclusive tours of KU Athletics, to experiencing holiday magic at the Territorial Capital Museum in Lecompton with over 250 Christmas trees, we have much to offer. New classes include an in-depth look at the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, featuring first-hand accounts and expert insights, and J.R.R. Tolkien’s Bookshelf, where you’ll explore what inspired the legendary author, including his fascination with languages and his WWI experiences. This is just a small highlight of what is to come. There is something for everyone.

The Osher Institute at KU has been offering high-quality educational and enrichment opportunities to the community for 20 years, and we could not continue to evolve those offerings without the feedback of our many stakeholders. Over the course of the next few months, we will be asking for input on curriculum and course development, partner sites, program fees and much more. This input will be critical to the future growth and quality of the Osher program so please take a few moments to share your feedback.

Again, I am excited and honored to be a part of Osher at KU. In just a few short months, I already feel a strong connection to Osher and the entire KU community. I look forward to meeting more of you over the course of the fall semester and to bringing even more amazing programming to life. Feel free to drop me an email or a call; I want to hear from you!

Jennifer Kraenzle
Director of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
785-864-1758
jkraenzle@ku.edu

Christmas Through the Ages in Historic Lecompton

Start your holiday season with a visit to historic Lecompton and the Territorial Capital Museum’s annual Christmas tree and decorations exhibition. The visit will start with a presentation by regional Christmas ornament enthusiast Michele Ferris and Suellen Maekley. They will take participants through a presentation that covers antique and vintage Christmas decorations. Topics will include feather trees, Christmas lighting and ornaments from the late 1800s into the 1970s. They will discuss keys to identify the age and point of origin of the decorations and there will be an opportunity for questions.

After the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to view the 250 trees and antique ornaments on display throughout the museum.

After the museum visit, participants are encouraged to visit Constitution Hall. In 1856, it became the place where the Kansas territorial government convened. In the fall of 1857, the Lecompton constitutional convention met and drafted a pro-slavery constitution.

Enjoy shopping in the quaint downtown or lunch in one of the local restaurants.



Friday, Nov. 8

9:30 a.m. - Arrive at the Territorial Capital Museum, 640 E. Woodson Ave., Lecompton

Noon - Visit the downtown shops or restaurants or depart Lecompton

\$40 fee includes the presentation, museum fee, and guided tour of the museum.

Refunds will be honored on or before Nov. 1, minus a \$15 administrative fee.

Experience the Native Fashion Exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art

Native fashion features traditional garments, powwow regalia, streetwear, accessories, haute couture, photography, and contemporary art by national and local Indigenous designers alongside examples from the Spencer Museum’s collection.

Sydney Pursel, Curator for Public Practice and member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska will give a presentation on the exhibition and its development along with a tour of the exhibition.

The exhibition highlights the artistic richness of wearable artworks and their connection to historical and contemporary culture as expressions of tribal and personal identity. An accompanying runway show will showcase the talent of contemporary makers and remind visitors that display cases are not the natural context for Indigenous apparel. The exhibition examines the role fashion and adornment play in Indigenous lifeways through four themes that were developed in collaboration with a team of Native community advisors: resilience, representation, politics, and community.



Friday, Oct. 11

9:30 a.m. - Depart the Osher Institute, St. Andrews Office Facility, 1515 St. Andrews Drive

10 a.m. - Arrive at the Spencer Museum of Art

Noon - Depart Spencer for St. Andrews

\$50 fee includes transportation, presentation, and guided tour.

Refunds will be honored on or before Oct. 4 minus a \$15 administrative fee.

Historic Kansas City Bus Tour

This guided tour takes us to scores of historic sites with photo stops. You'll be treated to a first-person account by Octave Chanute, the engineer who designed and built the 1869 Hannibal Railroad Bridge. Learn about the man who mentored the Wright Brothers and has a town named in his honor. Explore sites like the Santa Fe Trail Ruts, Satchel Paige's grave, Case Overlook Park, the Missouri River Boardwalk, Lewis and Clark campsite, and others. Learn the stories behind KC's 8th Street cable car tunnel, Quantrill, the Union Station Massacre, KC's first skyscraper, Thomas Swope and his murder, Nell Donnelly Reed's company and her kidnapping, the Battle of Westport, political boss Tom Pendergast, the NFL's longest game, and KC as the BBQ Capital of the World. Participants will explore the many offerings of the City Market for lunch on their own.



Thursday, Sept. 12

8 a.m. – Coach departs the Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, and returns by 4 p.m.

9 a.m. – Coach arrives at Edwards Campus, 12600 Quivira Road, Overland Park, and returns by 3 p.m.

\$125 fee includes coach transportation and guided tour; participants will explore the City Market on their own for lunch.

Refunds will be honored on or before Sept. 5 minus a \$20 administrative fee.

Unveiling Crimson Glory: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at KU Athletics

Join us for an exclusive Unveiling Crimson Glory event this fall! This unique experience will offer a rare glimpse into the world of KU Athletics, taking you behind the scenes of the NCAA Champion KU Basketball program. The session kicks off with a tailgate and pep rally at the Osher building in Lawrence so register early; this event will sell out!

Here's what you can expect:

- **Basketball:** Explore the hallowed ground of the DeBruce Center where the original, handwritten rules of basketball, penned by Dr. James Naismith himself, are held. Take a walk through the Booth Family Hall of Athletics at Allen Fieldhouse, a treasure trove of Jayhawk history, showcasing memorabilia, trophies, and tributes to the legendary coaches, players, and moments that have shaped KU basketball.
- **KU Uniforms:** Discover the history and evolution of the iconic KU basketball uniforms. See a showcase of classic jerseys and learn the stories behind the designs and their significance to the history of the sport.

#RockChalk #UnveilingCrimsonGlory



KU Basketball Uniforms - Friday, Sept. 13
4:00 p.m

KU Basketball Deep Dive: TBD
Time TBD

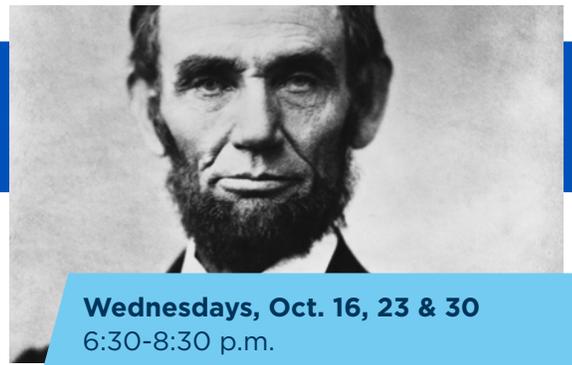
Stay tuned for more information about ticketing and time updates!

This event is perfect for:

- Die-hard Jayhawk fans.
- Sports enthusiasts.
- Families looking for a unique KU experience.
- Anyone interested in a behind-the-scenes look at college athletics.

1861: America Goes to War
Ethan Rafuse

This course will look at the military history of the first year of the American Civil War and how the North and South, unable to reconcile their differences over slavery and its place in the future of the republic, mobilized for war and, unsuccessfully, were unable to prevent the sectional conflict from becoming what would be America's bloodiest conflict. It will look at the strategic and political contexts that shaped military operations in Missouri, Virginia, and elsewhere, as well as the leaders, such as Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Nathaniel Lyon, and Pierre Beauregard, whose decisions shaped their course and outcome.



Wednesdays, Oct. 16, 23 & 30
 6:30-8:30 p.m.
In Person & Online
 KU Edwards Campus
 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

A Family, Freud and Friendliness: The Menninger Clinic in Topeka
Karl Menninger

From its beginnings in a farmhouse on the edge of Topeka, the Menninger Clinic became a psychiatric hospital that treated patients and trained clinicians from all over the world. We'll look at the family who founded the clinic and directed it for more than 75 years, until it moved to Houston. We'll also examine how patients were treated at the clinic, what the clinic contributed to Topeka and vice versa.



Mondays, Nov. 18, 25 & Dec. 9
 10 a.m.-noon
In Person & Online
 KU Edwards Campus
 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Adventures in Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright
Vincent Clark

Frank Lloyd Wright was an American artist who aimed to create a specifically American architecture. In doing so, the single-story house, seen everywhere across the country, was his main artistic product. This course will introduce Wright, his work, and his influence, which surrounds many Americans in their daily lives.



Tuesdays, Nov. 26 & Dec. 3, 10
 2-4 p.m.
In Person
 Tallgrass Creek Retirement
 13800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park

All New, Historical Movies, The Sequel: How Historical Are They?

Robert Smith

This class is a sequel to an earlier one, focusing on historical accuracy in movies. We'll examine iconic epic films like "Cleopatra," "El Cid," "Bridge on the River Kwai," and "Titanic," evaluating their storylines, costumes, and settings. Another session will exclusively analyze significant American Westerns such as "Dances with Wolves" and "High Noon." The final session will critique 20th-century war movies. Get ready to challenge long-held movie myths and explore their historical contexts.



Thursdays, Oct. 10, 17 & 24

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging
2910 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka

American POWs in Vietnam, 1963-1979

Russ Hutchins

Join us to honor our POW heroes who endured harrowing experiences after being shot down over North Vietnam during bombing raids authorized by President Nixon. Many pilots were captured by enemy forces after ejecting from their jets hit by Russian-made surface-to-air missiles. Their ordeals, including torture and publicized embarrassing moments, will be discussed, highlighting their resilience and survival until they returned home. We'll focus on American heroes like Stockdale and McCain, exploring their courage and endurance during captivity.



Thursdays, Oct. 31, Nov. 7 & 14

10 a.m.-noon

Online

An Insider's Guide to the Federal Reserve

Gordon Sellon

The Federal Reserve is in the news daily, as the media speculate on the Fed's next policy move. But there is more to the Fed than its current policy actions. We'll study the Fed's many functions in the financial system, as well as its role in macroeconomic policy. As the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve plays an important role in the U.S. economy and financial markets.



Thursdays, Oct. 31 & Nov. 7, 14

2-4 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Arts of China: The Bronze Age

Bob Thorp

This course begins a series of four courses on Chinese art and culture, with the Chinese collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City as a focus. We will explore the archaeology and culture of the Bronze Age, circa 2000-200 B.C.E., highlighting carving jade and casting bronze, especially ritual vessels. Other media includes ceramics, lacquer, silk, and writing.



Tuesdays, Nov. 19, 26 & Dec. 3
10 a.m.-noon

In Person
KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Battle of the Chosin Reservoir

Daniel Cudnik

The battle of the Chosin Reservoir occurred during the Korean War, often called the Forgotten War, in the mountainous northern regions of Korea. It tells the story of the Marines fighting in subzero conditions, holding off overwhelming hordes of communist Chinese troops, and exhibiting rare heroism. A strategic retreat, unfortunately, was required that showed the ingenuity of the U.S. military in overcoming seemingly impossible odds.



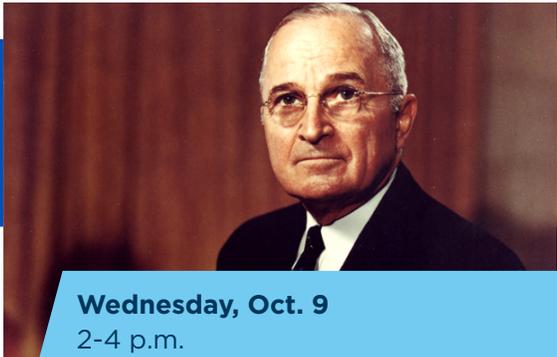
Monday, Nov. 4
2-4 p.m.

In Person & Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Bread for My Enemies: How Harry Truman, Herbert Hoover, and Lucius Clay Saved West Germany From Starvation and Communism

David Mills

At the end of WWII, the Allies had no intention of feeding Germany, but allowing people to starve went against our values and interests as Americans. So, the Truman administration, with the help of Herbert Hoover and General Lucius Clay, spent considerable time and effort trying to find enough food to keep people in the western occupation zones from starving to death or turning to communism. However, circumstances prevented the United States from providing more than starvation rations for the first three years after the war.



Wednesday, Oct. 9
2-4 p.m.

In Person & Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Brown v. Board of Education: The Untold Stories

Wanda Dixon and Shawn Leigh Alexander

Seventy years ago, in 1954, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren delivered the unanimous ruling in the landmark civil rights case Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. This course dives deeper into the case, exploring the often-overlooked narrative that shaped this fight for educational equality. You will go beyond the Supreme Court decision to discover the experiences of a student who was at the forefront of this movement and a KU professor who has thoroughly studied this movement.



Tuesdays, Oct. 8, 15 & 22

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Wednesdays, Sept. 18, 25 & Oct. 2

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus

12610 Quivira Rd., Overland Park

Camels. Dolphins. Mules.

Stephenie Slahor

These are three distinct species, but they have links to human activity and lore. We'll explore anatomy, characteristics and behaviors of each and how their intelligence and adaptations play key roles in their lives and ours.



Thursdays, Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3

2-4 p.m.

Online

CapCut

Stephen J. Knifton

This beginner course teaches you to use CapCut with no prior experience needed. You'll learn to edit footage, add titles, transitions, effects, audio, color grade, and export projects. We'll also explore AI features like text-based editing, character generators, and text-to-video creation. The course uses the free version of CapCut, but I'll demo the Pro features for evaluation.



Mondays, Sept. 16, 23 & 30

2-4 p.m.

Online

Carols for Christmas

Jean M. Hein

Join us for a Christmas carol celebration, featuring stories behind the music and lyrics, inspiring video performances, and visual art to enhance your holiday season. As Sir David Willcocks said, “In our technological age, the simple pleasure of communal singing at Christmas has endured, and carol music, ‘the ancient unalterable music of the people’ still brings cheer.”



Thursday, Dec. 5

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Chris Thile: Mandolin Magic

Jean M. Hein

At age 12, Chris Thile won the prestigious national mandolin championship at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS. He received his first Grammy nomination at age 15. Are you curious about what happened next? Join our class to learn more.



Thursday, Nov. 21

2-4 p.m.

In Person

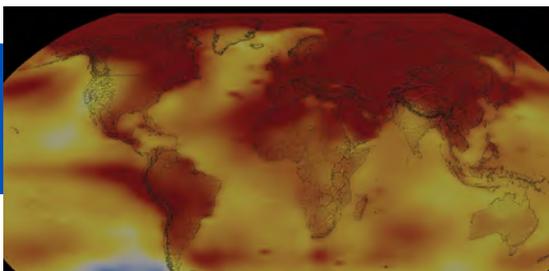
KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Climate Change: What Will Happen?

Charles Keller

The Yangtze, the Rhine, the Colorado. Worldwide, some rivers are drying up, while other rivers are flooding. Commerce and industry are impacted. Food and water shortages are beginning. Hundreds of thousands of people are dying. Our plan to thwart climate change is scheduled to take 30 years. The platform for a panic is set. Will panic ensue in the next five years?



Wednesday, Nov. 13

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person & Online

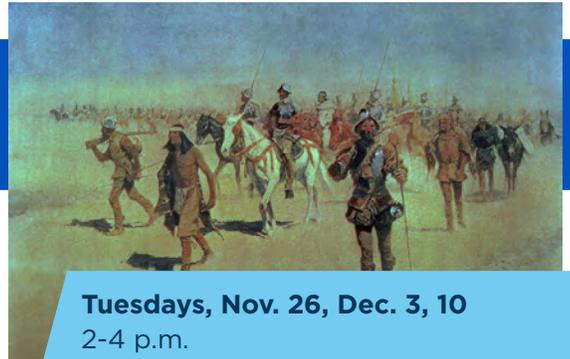
KU Edwards Campus

12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Conquistadors in Kansas

Lindy Eakin

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Spanish explorers like Francisco Vazquez de Coronado and Juan de Oñate ventured onto the southern plains, now Kansas, seeking riches. After being disappointed in their search for Cibola in New Mexico, they found extensive Indian villages along the Arkansas River, where inhabitants grew corn, beans, and squash and hunted buffalo. We will explore these expeditions to understand the Spanish experience and learn about the indigenous people and their early contact with Europeans.



Tuesdays, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10
2-4 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Deitsch, Däätsch & Dietsch: The Survival of German Immigrant Dialects in Kansas & Missouri

William D. Keel

Thousands of German-speaking immigrants settled in Missouri and Kansas, and the dialects spoken in larger settlements continued into the mid-to-late 20th century. Although the dialects have declined, the number of counties exhibiting German speech is increasing. Old Order Amish communities speaking Pennsylvania Dutch are increasing, and the influx of Low German-speaking Mennonite Mexican immigrants is another factor. We'll explore these phenomena. William Keel, Ph.D., is a professor emeritus of German at KU, having taught the history and culture of German settlements in Kansas and Missouri.



Thursday, Nov. 21
10 a.m.-noon.

In Person

KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Don't Have a Heart Attack

Keith Jantz

Preventative measures continue to be the best way to control or prevent heart disease. Join us to learn about the various common and less common risk factors contributing to coronary artery disease. Individual topics on hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes will be presented covering causative factors and treatment options, both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic.



Monday, Dec. 9
2-4 p.m.

In Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Flavors of Germany: Culinary Delights, Beer Heritage, and Holiday Magic

Anette Isaacs

Join historian Anette Isaacs for a three-session course exploring German culture through its cuisine, brewing traditions, and Christmas festivities. Enjoy a journey through regional specialties and holiday treats, celebrate Germany’s brewing legacy, and discover the magical traditions of German Christmas celebrations.



Thursdays, Nov. 21, Dec. 5 & 12
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Online

From Front Porches to Rallies: Presidential Campaigns Through History

Diana Carlin

George Washington didn’t make a single speech before his election as the first U.S. President. The office sought the man and not the other way around. Find out how we got from Washington to today’s campaigns with ads, robo calls, debates, and rallies.



Tuesdays, Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1
1-3 p.m.
In Person
Brewster Place Event Center
1205 SW 29th St., Topeka

From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis

Debra Margaret Goodrich

Based on the new biography of Charles Curtis, historian Deb Goodrich shares the first remarkable story of the first person of color to serve as Vice President of the United States. As a mixed blood man in the 19th century, his life was filled with challenges and compromises. His Kaw and Osage ancestors had met with presidents and signed significant treaties; how would he respond to the issues facing his Native American cousins?



Tuesdays, Oct. 8, 15 & 22
2-4 p.m.
Online

German Settlements and Culture in Kansas

William D. Keel

German is the most prevalent language after English and Spanish spoken at home in 77 counties in Kansas. Since 1854, thousands of German-speaking immigrants have sought better lives here, including Pennsylvania Dutch, Volga Germans, Mennonites, Austrians, and Swiss. German churches dot the prairie, and some rural Kansans still speak a dialect of German.



Thursdays, Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3
2-4 p.m.
In Person
Eudora Community Museum
720 Main St., Eudora

Great Women Composers

Don Dagenais

Beginning in the 19th century, the number of women composers increased greatly. We'll discuss the lives of these women and listen to their music beginning with the great 10th century abbess Hildegard von Bingen. We'll continue with the trouveres of the Middle Ages, and hear from Barbara Strozzi, Wilhelmine of Bayreuth, and others, as well as explore contemporary composers such as Joan Tower.



Fridays, Nov. 1, 8 & 15

10 a.m.-noon.

In Person

Roeland Park Community Center
4850 Rosewood Drive, Roeland Park

Health Care in the United States

Shirley Hill

This class looks at the emergence and transformation of the American health care system as it faced challenges such as shifts in the nature of disease, unequal access to medicine, and escalating medical costs. We'll examine medical and scientific discoveries of the 19th century and study the challenges to organized medicine that began in the 1960s as well as discuss contemporary health care issues.



Tuesdays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 & 12

2-4 p.m.

In Person

Tallgrass Creek Retirement
13800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park

History of the U.S. - Mexico Border

Aaron Margolis

This course will explore the historical development of the U.S.- Mexico border from the perspective of both Mexico and the United States. Together, we will explore how the border evolved and hardened through the creation of the Border Patrol, the Mexican Revolution and the effects of Prohibition. We'll review personal accounts, photographs and songs of "borderlanders," along with government officials providing crucial context to today's current debates. Finally, we will examine how to negotiate the border in the age of nationalism.



Mondays, Oct. 7, 14 & 21

6:30-8:30 p.m.

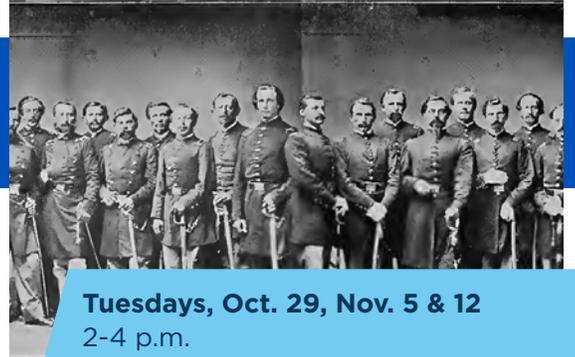
In Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

I Goes to Fight Mit Sigel: The German-American Experience in the Civil War

William D. Keel

“I goes to fight mit Sigel!,” a popular Civil War song, reflects that about one-third of Union soldiers were recent German immigrants or their sons. These Germans, often called the “Damned Dutch” or “Hessians” by the Confederates, saw the Civil War as a continuation of the failed German Revolution of 1848-49, which aimed for unity and democratic reforms. They were led by former revolutionary leaders like Friedrich Hecker, Carl Schurz, and Franz Sigel. Join us to explore this fascinating topic.



Tuesdays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 & 12
2-4 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Irish, German, and Italian Immigrants in 19th and 20th Century America

Carl Graves

What caused massive numbers of Irish, Germans, and Italians to come to our shores in the 19th and early 20th centuries? What was the reaction of the native-born to these strangers? To what extent did the newcomers try to stick together, blend in, advance or return to their old country? What contributions did these immigrants and their offspring make to this country?



Tuesdays, Oct. 8, 15 & 22
2-4 p.m.

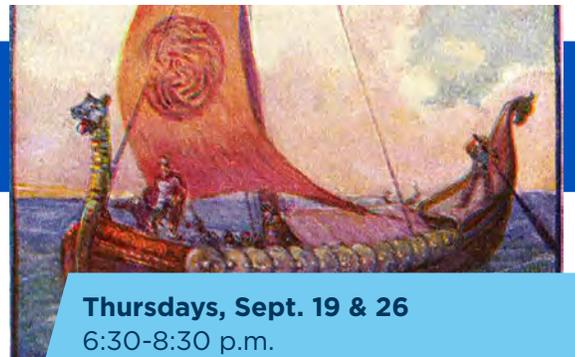
In Person

Aldersgate Village
7220 SW Asbury Drive, Topeka

J.R.R. Tolkien’s Bookshelf

Vic Peterson

J.R.R. Tolkien, the greatest fantasy writer of the 20th century, drew profound inspiration from medieval northwestern European literature for his works, “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy. This course explores the ancient literary influences on Tolkien, such as “Beowulf,” the Icelandic “Njal’s Saga,” the legend of King Arthur and Merlin, the Irish epic “The Táin,” and “The Romance of Tristan and Iseult.” We’ll also delve into Tolkien’s life, his fascination with languages, his WWI experiences, and themes like riddles, runes, vows, curses, valkyries, and quests. Familiarity with “The Hobbit” or “The Lord of the Rings” is helpful but not required, as we’ll use audio excerpts and videos to understand the legends that inspired Tolkien’s work.



Thursdays, Sept. 19 & 26
6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Khrushchev’s Cornfields: The 1955 Soviet Agricultural Exchange

David Mills

The Cold War was at its height in 1955 and the Soviets could not feed their own citizens. At the same time, a small-town newspaper editor suggested that the Soviets come visit Iowa if they wanted to learn how to grow hogs and corn. One thing led to another, and 12 Soviet agricultural ministers came to Iowa to learn about “the secret to American farm productivity,” while 12 American farmers traveled to the Soviet Union, at their own expense, to teach the Soviets how to be more productive. Both the Soviet and American delegations were treated like rock stars by their host nations. At the same time these two governments threatened nuclear war, the most peaceful demonstration of goodwill took place between these two enemies.



Tuesday, Nov. 19

2-4 p.m.

In Person

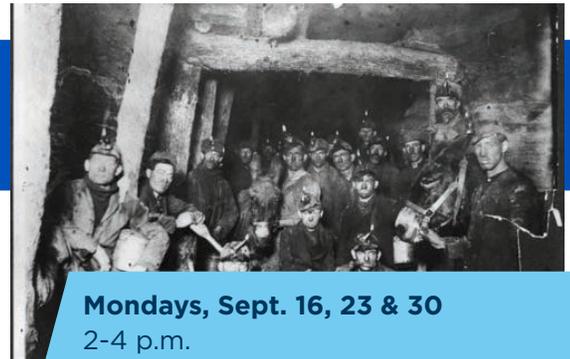
KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

King Coal in Kansas

Ken Crockett

We’ll explore the development of sub-surface coal mining in Crawford and Cherokee counties, making them the center of “King” Coal and resulting in milestones such as Pittsburg reaching 50,000 residents and UMWA membership exceeding 16,000, making it the world’s zinc smelting capital. We’ll also examine the emergence of area tycoons such as Mackie, Clemmons, and Spencer.



Mondays, Sept. 16, 23 & 30

2-4 p.m.

In Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus

12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

KU’s Historic Athletics Rivalries: K-State, Nebraska and Missouri

Bernie Kish

These historic rivalries started in the 1890s and continue to the current times. The coaches we will discuss include, KU’s Jack Mitchell, NE’s Bob Devaney and MO’s Dan Devine. A few of the outstanding players include: Gale Sayers, John Hadl, Johnny Rogers, and Kellen Winslow.



Thursdays, Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3

2-4 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Legendary Foods of Europe: France: Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité...and Food

Larry Canepa

French culture, influenced by geography, history, and diverse factors, has centered on Paris as a hub of high culture since the 17th century. We'll delve into bistros, cafes, and the culinary creations of renowned chefs, from haute cuisine to cuisine bourgeoise, and explore vibrant food markets. Our exploration spans tradition and innovation, showcasing crispy baguettes, rich cheeses, and exquisite pastries.



Thursdays, Oct. 10, 17 & 24

2-4 p.m.

Online

Legendary Foods of China

Larry Canepa

Chinese cuisine, among the world's oldest and most diverse, varies widely by region, class, and ethnic background. Its millennia-long history reflects environmental changes, climate variations, and local preferences, influencing cuisines across Asia and beyond. With its rich array of cooking techniques and ingredients, Chinese cuisine highlights flavor, color, aroma, and texture. Food plays a central role in Chinese culture, fostering family unity and togetherness.



Tuesday, Nov. 12

2-4 p.m.

Online

Legendary Foods of Japan

Larry Canepa

Japanese food is renowned for its refinement and elegance, with centuries of honed preparation and presentation. Its flavors are pure and delicate, celebrating seasonal produce with a focus on natural ingredients.



Tuesday, Nov. 5

2-4 p.m.

Online

Lowlands, Highlands, Islands: The Geography of Scotland

Tom Schmiedeler

This course covers Scotland's geography, including its physiography, ancient geology, and natural resources. It explores cultural contributions from groups like the Picts, Scots, and Norse, and highlights influential figures such as Adam Smith, James Watt, David Hume, James Hutton, and Sir Walter Scott. Contrasting Edinburgh and Glasgow, it also examines Scotland's political geography, including parties and the issue of independence.



Tuesdays, Oct. 8, 15 & 22

2-4 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Making Tracks: American Railroads Then and Now

Carl Graves

We'll explore the economic, political, and cultural impact of U.S. railroad corporations, passenger, and freight trains, as well as workers who built, ran, and maintained them. Focusing on years from the Civil War to the present, the class emphasizes not only the Union Pacific-Central Pacific transcontinental route, but also lines in Kansas and Kansas City like the Santa Fe and the Rock Island.



Tuesdays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 & 12

10 a.m.-noon

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Mindfulness/Meditation and Art

Susan Pingleton

Mindfulness is the mental state achieved by focusing on the present moment while acknowledging one's feelings, thoughts, and sensations. Meditation, akin to gym exercise, enhances mindfulness away from everyday life. In this course, we'll focus on art to achieve a mentally clear, emotionally calm, and stable state.



Monday, Oct. 28

2-4 p.m.

In Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus

12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Mountain of True Peace - A Guatemalan Journey

KelLee Ray Parr

The author of the new book "Mountains of True Peace" shares the experience of a lifetime. KelLee spent three years right after college living and working in a remote village in the mountains of Guatemala as a volunteer agricultural missionary with Mennonite Central Committee. He will share the culture, food, and living conditions he experienced throughout his adventure with the K'ekchi' people. The presentation will also delve into the political situation of Guatemala in the 1950s through his time in Guatemala that has ramifications in our world today.



Thursdays, Oct. 10, 17 & 24

2-4 p.m.

In Person

Eudora Community Museum

720 Main St., Eudora

Nature Wars - Our Battles With Vegetation, Wildlife, and Water

Thomas Luellen

“And God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the Earth and subdue it.” This course examines our efforts to subdue the Earth in North America. From removing the forests east of the Mississippi River for giant monoculture farms to having perfect suburban lawns, which attract deer and geese, subduing the Earth has been a constant battle. In the West we will learn “water flows uphill to money.” One in nine Americans depend on water from the Colorado River. But with the current 20+ year drought, significant changes in water usage will be necessary.



Tuesdays, Nov. 19, 26 & Dec. 3
1-3 p.m.

In Person
Brewster Place Event Center
1205 SW 29th St., Topeka

Negro League Baseball World Series: The Long Forgotten Other Fall Classic

Kevin L. Mitchell

This course will discuss the 11 Negro League Baseball World Series (1924 - 1927, 1942 - 1948), in which 21 players and five team owners with plaques in the National Baseball Hall of Fame participated. It will tell the story behind the beginning of the Negro League World Series and how it had to wave through the water of racial discrimination in professional baseball during those times. The course covers World Series highlights, similarities and differences compared to the Major League Baseball World Series, ongoing problems not overcome, and why it has been forgotten by most baseball fans.



Wednesdays, Sept. 25 & Oct. 2
2-4 p.m.

In Person & Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Norse Folklore

Vic Peterson

Before appearing in Disney movies and “The Lord of the Rings,” trolls, dragons, elves, and dwarves were part of Norse folklore from medieval Scandinavia, a diverse region from present-day western Russia to Greenland. This rich tradition inspired memorable figures in children’s literature and contemporary fantasy. Topics include runes, symbols, divination, mythical beings, wandering magicians, classic fairytales, and modern adaptations by Disney and Marvel. No prior knowledge is needed; we’ll use audio excerpts and videos in class.



Wednesdays, Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4
2-4 p.m.

In Person & Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

On the Road: Highways, Cars, and Vacations of a Bygone Era

Carl Graves

Although federal highway construction started in 1916, the U.S. became a car-oriented nation after World War II. Some of us recall tourist travel on Route 66 or the Lincoln Highway when they were two-lane roads, eating homemade sandwiches or food from roadside diners, spending the night at modest tourist courts while on the way to the Grand Canyon, Mt. Rushmore, or lesser-known travel destinations. Then came the interstate highways, Howard Johnsons, and Holiday Inn. We will recall the years when gas was cheap and cars were large through film clips, historical accounts, travel music and our own memories.



Wednesdays, Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4
2-4 p.m.

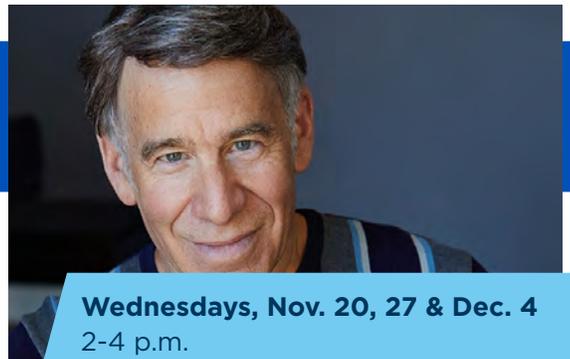
In Person

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging
2910 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka

Paul Laird Presents Stephen Schwartz: From Godspell to Wicked

Paul Laird

Stephen Schwartz has carved out a distinctive Broadway and Hollywood career for more than four decades, serving as lyricist and composer for such shows as “Godspell” (1971), “Pippin” (1972), “The Magic Show” (1974), “The Baker’s Wife” (1976), “Children of Eden” (1991), “The Prince of Egypt” (1998), and “Wicked” (2003), among others, and as lyricist for such Disney animated features as “Pocahontas” (1995) and “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” (1996). This course will be a detailed look at Schwartz’s career, his fruitful collaborations, and the style of his music and lyrics, largely based upon Laird’s many interviews with the artist and the resulting book.



Wednesdays, Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4
2-4 p.m.

In Person

Brandon Woods Smith Center
4730 Brandon Woods Terrace,
Lawrence

Prohibition: The Noble Experience

Will Haynes

We all think we know the story of Prohibition, but it was more complicated than most of us realize. This course traces the American temperance movement, exploring how middle-class women shaped it into a winning progressive cause, and how it shaped the era known as the Roaring Twenties. Was Prohibition an “awful flop” or a “noble experiment” starved of support? As we’ll see, the glass was both half empty and half full!



Mondays, Oct. 7, 14 & 21
2-4 p.m.

In Person

Northland Innovation Center
6889 N Oak Traffic Way, Gladstone

Rajah Rabbits, Culture Farms, and the Kansas City Shuffle

Jerry Harper

P.T. Barnum never said, “there’s a sucker born every minute,” but the enduring success of Ponzi, pyramid, and similar schemes proves the point. Charles Dickens wrote about these ruses in “Little Dorrit” in 1857, and Bernie Madoff fleeced investors out of billions until 2008. We’ll discuss various scams, including the Ladies Deposit, the Prosperity Club, the Kansas City Shuffle, multilevel marketing, and lotteries, some ongoing today. Notable Kansas schemes include ‘Rajah’ Porter’s 1930s rabbit-raising con in Wichita and the Culture Farms grift in Lawrence, which promised profits from refrigerator cultures for cosmetics testing until the Kansas Securities Commissioner intervened.



Thursdays, Oct. 17 & 24

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Several Women Poets

Max Westler

The poets in question are Emily Dickinson, Marianne Moore, and Elizabeth Bishop (with maybe a few “guest appearances” by others). We will be setting a larger context for each of these poets, dealing with their biographies and the critical reception each of them received. But mostly we’ll be looking closely at the texts, discussing the very individual ways these artists celebrate the art of poetry.



Mondays, Oct. 7, 14 & 21

2-4 p.m.

In Person

Senior Resource Center, Douglas Co.

745 Vermont St., Lawrence

Six Drinks That Changed the World: The Historical Geography of Tea, Coffee, and Soda (Part II)

Tom Schmiedeler

This course explores the origins and spread of the three most popular caffeine drinks, examining their cultural and environmental impacts. Despite containing the widely used psychoactive drug caffeine, these drinks are sold with few restrictions. We’ll discuss tea’s role in the Opium Wars, coffee’s link to slavery in the Americas, and the health effects of sugar in sodas. This course can be taken independently of the previous “Six Drinks” course on wine, beer, and spirits.



Tuesdays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 & 12

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person

Northland Innovation Center

6889 N Oak Traffic Way, Gladstone

Smartphone Filmmaking

Stephen J. Knifton

This course teaches you to shoot and edit film-quality videos with your smartphone using an inexpensive app. Suitable for aspiring filmmakers, entrepreneurs, and content creators, you'll learn to control look, color, lighting, and framing like a professional. Students must purchase and install the Filmic Pro app from the Google Play Store or the App Store.



Speleothems

Stephenie Slahor

Speleothems are the beautiful, amazing or unusual formations found only in caves of the world. We'll take a look these unique creations from stalactites to cave bacon! Yes, there is such a thing as cave bacon!



Monday, Nov. 4
2-4 p.m.
Online

Stories and Songs of Big Rivers and Great Lakes

Carl Graves

The Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers, and the Great Lakes are rich in history, tall tales, and music. Come learn how canal boats, steamboats, tugs, and barges, plus Great Lakes freighters played a major role in U.S. territorial and economic expansion. We will review the Steamboat Arabia, the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald and more. The grandson of a Great Lakes sailor, the instructor has visited the Great Lakes and rivers covered in the class and shares photos from his own collection, as well as film of large, modern vessels.



Thursdays, Oct. 10, 17 & 24
10 a.m.-noon
In Person
KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Sympathy for the Devil's Music: A Story About Rock 'n' Roll Continues

Steve Lopes

Rock 'n' roll didn't die in 1959 (whew!), but rockers were exploring new avenues of expression as well as new markets. The songs of Jerry Lee, Fats, Chuck, Buddy, and Richard were now honored "oldies," and "rock" was firmly established as the official teenage soundtrack. Rock 'n' roll morphed into new forms of what would now be called rock music. These would include Motown, with its girl and guy groups, Phil Spector's "wall of sound," surf music, "authentic" folk music, soul, folk rock, blues by Brits, and re-energized pop music. We will consider the first half of the 1960s music scene as a transitional time until the next Elvis appeared as Mop Tops bringing the first British Invasion to America. Join our conversation about how rock adapted to changing times.



Mondays, Nov. 18, 25 & Dec. 2

2-4 p.m

In Person and Online

KU Edwards Campus

12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

The Craft of Gardens in China: Suzhou and Beijing

Bob Thorp

Chinese gardens developed from imperial pleasure parks and became status symbols complementing the homes of scholar officials and the wealthy. This course examines the history, design, and aesthetics of gardens in premodern China, with a focus on gardens of Ming period Suzhou and Qing period imperial sites around Beijing.



Thursdays, Oct. 10, 17 & 24

2-4 p.m.

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

The Devil's Music: A Story about Rock 'n' Roll

Steve Lopes

Elements of a controversial phenomenon that would become rock 'n' roll, and forever alter American and world culture, gathered during the first half of the 20th century. The musical roots- country & western, rhythm & blues, pop, jazz, gospel, and folk-were integral to birth the Big Beat. But other forces-teen culture, politics, business, technology, racism, media, and chance, also played roles in rock's development. The golden age of rock was all teen idols, doo wop, and girl groups until 1959, when "the music died." Was this the end of rock? Join our conversation about how rock became rock.



Thursdays, Oct. 31, Nov. 7 & 14

2-4 p.m.

In Person

McCrite Plaza at Briarcliff

1201 NW Tullison Road,

Kansas City, MO

This is the first in the Devil's Music series, see the second in the series *Sympathy for the Devil's Music: A Story About Rock 'n' Roll Continues* at the top of this page.

The Dirty Thirties: The Depression, the New Deal, and the Dust Bowl

Carl Graves

The Great Depression of the 1930s was the longest period of “hard times” in U.S. history. However, not every family had the same experience. We will cover various personal situations and national trends, as well as events in Kansas, including the Dust Bowl. We’ll examine President Hoover’s efforts and Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal programs like the Works Progress Administration and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. We will also view the New Deal’s legacy, including the FDIC Social Security. Finally, we’ll listen to 1930s music and share family stories from this tumultuous era.



Thursdays, Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3

2-4 p.m.

In person

Senior Resource Center, Douglas Co.
745 Vermont St., Lawrence

The Grand Canyon

Stephenie Slahor

What makes the Grand Canyon “grand”? Arizona’s Grand Canyon is one of Earth’s most famous places. We’ll explore how it originated and developed, the role of the Colorado River, its trails, its ancient and modern human history, and its unique flora and fauna. This course explores the facts, trivia, and fun about one of America’s most visited national parks. And, yes, we’ll learn about those famous Grand Canyon mules!



Wednesdays, Oct. 9, 16 & 23

10 a.m.-noon

Online

The Great Struggle For World Dominance

Charles Keller

Following WWII the US became the world leader promoting the values of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. Now China is challenging this, asking the question, “Why should the U.S. be the arbitrator of human rights?” Besides using slave labor, China also wants control of Taiwan, the South Pacific Ocean, and steals USD technology. This is coupled with the fact that the U.S. is dependent of Chinese goods and China’s economy is dependent on selling goods to the U.S. Other issues such as the Ukraine war and climate change further complicate the U.S./China relationship.



Thursdays, Oct. 30 & Nov. 6

10 a.m.-noon

In Person and Online

KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

The Small Town in Kansas: The Interminable Struggle for Survival

Tom Schmiedeler

The historical geography of small towns in Kansas reveals that their struggles for economic viability are not of recent origin but began shortly after settlement. Climatic misconceptions, ineffectual land alienation laws, and the townsite activities of railroads led to over settlement and the creation of too many towns. The platting of new towns continued well into the 20th century despite depopulation, the abandonment of rail lines and their towns, and transformative technologies in transportation and agricultural mechanization. Various survival strategies implemented recently have had only limited success leaving an increasingly conservative culture in their wake.



Wednesdays, Sept. 18, 25 & Oct. 2
2-4 p.m.

In Person

McCrite Plaza Topeka
1608 SW 37th St., Topeka

The Spencers of Kansas: Champions of Culture and Commerce

Ken Crockett

Three generations of Spencers led Kansas to the forefront of coal mining and chemical manufacturing. John, his son, Charles, and the grandson, Kenneth, developed a coal/chemical empire from 1867 to Kenneth's death in 1960. During that century they became the world's leaders in mechanized mining and agricultural fertilizer. We'll also examine the Spencer Foundation's contributions to the arts and culture.



Wednesdays, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 & 13
2-4 p.m.

In Person and Online

KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Image: "Kenneth Spencer (center) in a coal shovel with his brother Harold (far left) and father Charles (second from left), undated [circa 1929]," KU Libraries Exhibits, accessed June 26, 2024, <https://exhibits.lib.ku.edu/items/show/7649>.

The Trumans

Marlene Katz

Join the Trumans as we explore the long life of love to each other as well to the United States during the time of the second World War. Their letters will share their life through the devastation and separation during World War II when he was faced with dropping the atomic bomb. Through their married life, he created the Truman library, which is located in Independence, Missouri, and Bess became his devoted partner throughout their entire lives of romance, separation, adversity, and love.



Monday, Nov. 4

10 a.m.-noon

In Person and Online

KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

The Vietnam War and Modern Memory

Karl Menninger

The war in Vietnam was the subject of several memorable books and movies showing various perspectives about the war. Some stories were told while the war was going on, and others were done years after the last troops left Saigon. How well did they reflect that time? We will be discussing works about the conduct of the war, the soldiers who fought in it, and how the war affected the nation. The books we may discuss include “A Bright Shining Lie,” “Dispatches,” “The Things They Carried,” and “A Rift in the Earth.” Movies may include “Go Tell the Spartans,” “Apocalypse Now,” “Full Metal Jacket,” “The Deer Hunter,” and “Coming Home.” Join us to learn more about this important time in history.



Wednesdays, Nov. 20, Dec. 4 & 11
10 a.m.-noon

In Person and Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

The Wild Geologic History of the Caribbean Tectonic Plate

Bill Shefchik

The island-studded Caribbean Sea has had a wild plate tectonics ride throughout its geologic history: birthed in the Pacific Ocean, squeezed through a rapidly closing gap between the bigger North American and South American tectonic plates, and now over-riding (“subducting”) the Atlantic Ocean floor. Geologic maps, cross sections, rock samples, and beautiful photographs will be used to describe this phenomenal geology. The lecture will include a few simple geologic fundamentals that will provide a lens through which this remarkable part of the world can be understood. No background knowledge of geology required.



Wednesday, Sept. 18
2-4 p.m.

In Person and Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

The Willows Maternity Sanitarium, KC and Unwed Mothers

KelLee Ray Parr

The well-documented orphan trains brought a wave of humanity to the Midwest in the late 1800s. A lesser-known wave arrived in secrecy. In the early to mid 1900s, Kansas City was known as the “adoption hub of America.” More than 100,000 pregnant, unwed young women arrived to give birth in one of several maternity facilities. The babies were placed for adoption and the women returned home heartbroken. We will explore how Kansas City received this distinctive designation and delve into the history of The Willows Maternity Sanitarium (the “Waldorf” of such facilities). Finally, we’ll study the family who ran The Willows for 64 years.



Thursdays, Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3
10 a.m.-noon

In Person
KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

The World of Rodgers and Hammerstein

Paul Laird

The collaboration of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II resulted in the creation of the modern American musical play, where a serious story was told through dialogue, music, and dance. Building upon their decades of writing Broadway musicals with other partners, Rodgers and Hammerstein became the most important creative team in the history of the American musical theater. This course will include detailed commentary on several of their most important shows.



Fridays, Oct. 11, 18 & 25

10 a.m.-noon

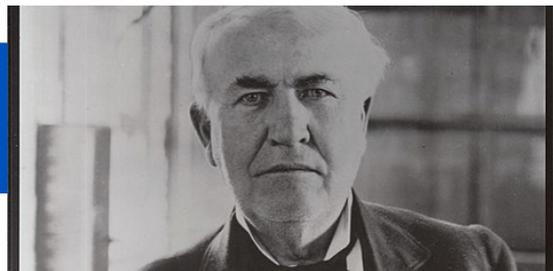
In Person

Roeland Park Community Center
4850 Rosewood Drive, Roeland Park

Thomas Edison: An American Genius

Paul Post

How did a boy from a small town in Ohio, having very little formal education and attending school for only a few months, become the most prolific inventor of the 19th and early 20th century? We'll seek the answer to this question and study the impact that this genius continues to exert on our lives today.



Mondays, Oct. 7, 14 & 21

2-4 p.m.

In Person and Online

KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Three Ship Disasters of the 20th Century: Titanic, Lusitania, and Andrea Doria

Paul Post

Ocean liners were the primary mode of intercontinental travel from the mid-19th century until they began to be supplanted by airliners. Advances in design and technology resulted in steamship companies proclaiming their ships to be "unsinkable," a claim proved false by the sinking of these three ships. We'll study the ships.



Wednesdays, Sept. 18, 25 & Oct. 2

2-4 p.m.

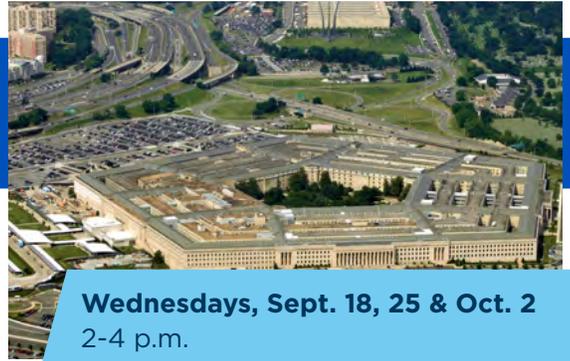
In Person

Aberdeen Village
17500 W 119th St., Olathe

Today's Military

Thomas A. Gray

So, your relative is in the military; what does that mean? How is the Department of Defense organized? What are the responsibilities of the military services? What do they mean when they say "joint service"? What is a combatant command? This course attempts to make some sense of today's Department of Defense and the missions of the maritime, land, air, and space components. We'll discuss how they are organized and what they do as the military instrument of national power.



Wednesdays, Sept. 18, 25 & Oct. 2
2-4 p.m.

In Person
Northland Innovation Center
6889 N Oak Traffic Way, Gladstone

Top 10 Ways to Live Longer

Keith Jantz

This course provides 10 easy to understand steps that an individual may employ in everyday life to improve their overall health and extend life expectancy. Suggestions are medically oriented and provided by a board certified internal medicine specialist.



Monday, Oct. 28
10 a.m.-noon

In Person and Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Triumph of a Heretic: The Philosophy and Influence of Spinoza

James Gaither

"I believe in Spinoza's God, who reveals Himself in the lawful harmony of the world, not in a God who concerns Himself with the fate and doings of mankind." - Albert Einstein. The philosopher Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) was regarded as a dangerous heretic by both his Jewish community and Christians of his time. Yet he was widely regarded by his contemporaries and later historians as a man of admirable character. Much of what others considered dangerous in his thought has become part of modern secular values. This course explores Spinoza's extraordinary life and influential philosophy.



Tuesdays, Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1
10 a.m.-noon

In Person
KU Osher Institute
1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

United States and World War II: Forgotten Military and Civilian Heroes and Heroines

Anita Tebbe

Americans living during World War II have been called the “Greatest Generation.” Outstanding military leaders immediately come to mind: General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Douglas MacArthur and General George S. Patton. This course, however, will concentrate on the not so famous U.S. heroes & heroines of World War II-the military minority soldiers of black Americans, Native Americans, the Japanese Americans, and the Counter Intelligence Corps. The military and civilian women in World War II, nurses and pilots, and the important civilian, Rosie the Riveter, and her five million factory workers, and American homefront rationing, recycling, and planting victory gardens will be investigated. American journalists, the Red Cross and other U.S. humanitarian groups and the critical U.S. test pilots, medics and other forgotten champions of World War II will also be discussed.



Wednesdays, Oct. 9, 16 & 23

2-4 p.m.

In Person

Claridge Court

8101 Mission Road, Prairie Village

United States Constitutional Amendments: A Different Way of Studying United States History

Anita Tebbe

The U.S. constitutional amendments were ratified because of pressing issues. For example, the 22nd Amendment was ratified limiting presidential terms because of the death of President Franklin Roosevelt. The 26th Amendment lowered the voting age during the Vietnam War where many members were under the age of 21. We'll explore U.S. history through a different lens.



Mondays, Oct. 7, 14 & 21

10 a.m.-noon

In Person and Online

KU Edwards Campus

12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

Unusual Places

Stephenie Slahor

Many places on Earth have historic and appropriate names, but there are also places that acquired their names for unusual reasons. We'll armchair travel to such sites as Calico, California, Tahiti and its islands, Valley of Fire, Nevada, the Mojave Desert, Oatman, Arizona, and Area 51, Nevada.



Tuesdays, Nov. 19, 26 & Dec. 3

2-4 p.m.

Online

Valley of the Kings, Queens, and Monkeys

David Mannering

A follow-up to “Tales of the Nile,” this course will look at the extraordinary concentration of temples and tombs near the ancient Egyptian capital, Thebes, with particular focus on the tombs in and around the Valley of Kings. Although Tutankhamen is the most famous king to be buried there, dozens of other tombs once contained mummies of far more consequential pharaohs. Who were these kings and queens? How were their tombs discovered, and what happened to their mummies? We’ll follow the saga of discovery and exploration of this remarkable valley.



Thursdays, Oct. 31, Nov. 7 & 14

10 a.m.-noon

In Person

KU Osher Institute

1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

Visions of the Future: Utopias and Dystopias

Karl Menninger

At least as far back as the golden age of Greece, people have written about their idea of an ideal society. Beginning in the 20th century, writers have imagined what appears to be a perfect society that is not perfect for some-or all-of its members. This course will review some of those works (such as More’s “Utopia,” Bellamy’s “Looking Backward,” Huxley’s “Brave New World,” Orwell’s “1984,” Atwood’s “The Handmaid’s Tale”) and discuss what societal values the authors thought were important and how that has changed over the years. We’ll also talk about why dystopias (in their various versions: books, movies, television series) are currently more popular than utopias.



Mondays, Sept. 16, 23 & 30

10 a.m.-noon

In Person and Online

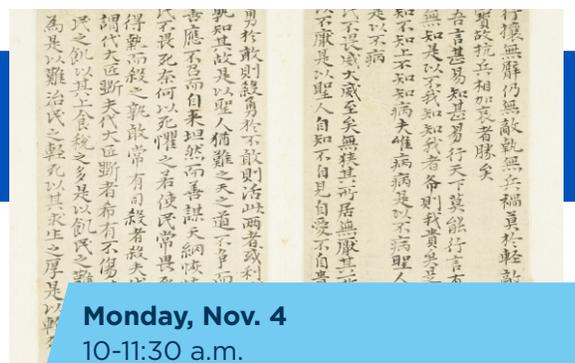
KU Edwards Campus

12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

What is the “Tao Te Ching?”

Larry N. Campbell

Written about 500 BCE, the “Tao Te Ching” is largely unknown by modern Westerners. It is NOT a religious text, but rather an exquisite “manual for living with integrity.” We will examine its background, discuss why various translations differ, and review passages you may be surprised come from the “Tao Te Ching!”



Monday, Nov. 4

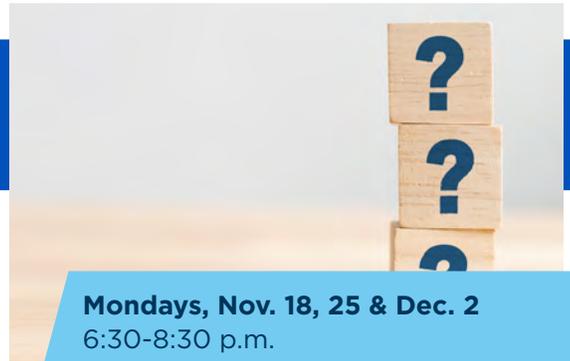
10-11:30 a.m.

Online

Why Are We Here? A Very Brief Introduction to Philosophy

James Gaither

We humans have often wondered about the nature of the universe and our place in it. Religion, philosophy, art, and science have emerged from this wondering. Human wonder can be summed up in the question, why are we here? The ambiguous meaning of that question suggests most questions that philosophy has attempted to answer. We'll explore rational attempts to arrive at satisfactory answers to questions such as: Where did everything come from? What does it all mean? What are we? What is our purpose? How can we live a good life? How can we know the truth about it all?



Mondays, Nov. 18, 25 & Dec. 2
6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person and Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

World Mysticism: The Quest to Merge With the Ultimate

James Gaither

The religions of the world all have a concept of an ultimate state of being or consciousness. The concept of “merging with the ultimate” is generally called “mysticism.” There are mysticism traditions in both Western and Eastern religions as well as what might be called “spiritual mysticism” which is not attached to any particular religion. These traditions have much in common, including a transcendent reality and the possibility for humans to experience a merging with that transcendent ultimate being or consciousness. This course explores a few examples of mysticism from different ages in world history, examining mystical theories and methods.



Wednesdays, Oct. 9, 16 & 23
10 a.m.-noon

In Person and Online
KU Edwards Campus
12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

World War I: Collective European Suicide

Robert Smith

One hundred years have passed since the end of one of the world’s most horrific events. This course will examine in detail the events that led up to the war, the first campaigns, and the stalemate that ensued in 1915. The second class will look at the war during the years 1916-1917, with specific emphasis on campaigns at sea, the Middle Eastern front, the Italian front and the Eastern front. The final class will focus on America’s entry into the war and the upheaval in Russia. The class will also examine the flawed Treaty of Versailles and its contribution to future events in Europe.



Wednesdays, Oct. 9, 16 & 23
6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Person and Online
Washburn University
1700 SW College Blvd., Topeka

////// HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND OF KU OSHER ////

Friends of KU Osher is a group of donors supporting the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kansas. Their contributions help keep tuition low, expand programming, attract qualified instructors, and maintain technology. Donations enrich adult learners' lives by ensuring accessible, high-quality education. Contributions range from \$50 to \$1,000+. To donate, complete the registration form in this catalog, call 888-653-6111, or visit kuendowment.org/osher. Every contribution helps. Please donate today.

////// THANK YOU INSTRUCTORS ////

The strength of our program is found in our dynamic instructors with a passion for teaching and a strong dedication to KU Osher members. Thanks for your commitment to lifelong learning. You inspire us! We are always looking for instructors. If you or someone you know would like to teach, email us at osher@ku.edu.



Go to jayhawkglobal.ku.edu/osher-instructors to view the bios or scan the QR code.

////// WE'RE PROUD OF OUR KU OSHER PARTNERS ////

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kansas is able to provide university-quality programming in northeast Kansas and the Greater Kansas City Area because of the strong commitment of our event partners. We congratulate them for their dedication to lifelong learning and thank them for their support.

Partner Sites Offering Discounts:

Aberdeen Village
aberdeenvillage.com

Aldersgate Village Life Plan Community
aldersgatevillage.org

Brandon Woods at Alvamar
brandonwoods.com

Brewster Place
brewsterplace.org

Claridge Court
claridgecourt.com

Clay County Senior Services
(Clay County Residents)
claycoseniors.org

McCrite Plaza Briarcliff
mccriteplaza.com/briarcliff/

Tallgrass Creek
www.ericksonseniorliving.com/tallgrass-creek

Alumni Discounts:

Kansas State University
k-state.com

KU Alumni Association
kualumni.org

Washburn University
washburn.edu

Other Event Partners:

Eudora Community Museum
Emporia Senior Center

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging
jhawkaaa.org

Johnson County Parks & Recreation
jcprd.com

KU Athletics
kuathletics.com

KU Edwards Campus
edwardscampus.ku.edu

KU Endowment Association
kuendowment.org

Riley County Senior Center

Senior Resource Center-Douglas Co
yoursrc.org

A special thank you to the **Bernard Osher Foundation**. Established in 1977 by its namesake Bernard Osher, the foundation supports a network of 125 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the U.S. to meet the needs of older learners who want to learn simply for the joy of it. Since 2007, the Foundation has awarded two \$1 million endowed grants to KU Jayhawk Global. To learn more, visit osherfoundation.org.



A. TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF (please print)

Full name (First, MI, Last, Suffix) _____ Preferred name _____

Email _____ Daytime phone _____

Address _____ City, State Zip code _____

Date of birth _____ Male Female I want to go paperless and no longer receive a printed catalog

Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No If no, country of citizenship _____

Name residential community, county residence, alumni membership, if applicable for discount _____

B. COURSES (One day course is \$25, two day course is \$35, three day course is \$50. If you qualify for partner discounts, mark courses below, adjust your subtotal accordingly, and indicate your residential community, county residence and/or alumni membership above.)

COURSE	START DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	FEE
EUDORA				
German Settlements and Culture in Kansas	9/19			\$50
Mountain of True Peace - A Guatemalan Journey	10/10			\$50
GLADSTONE, MISSOURI (Clay County residents \$15 per course, open to the public for regular price)				
Today's Military (Clay County residents \$15 per course)	9/18			\$50
Prohibition: The Noble Experience (Clay County residents \$15 per course)	10/7			\$50
Six Drinks that Changed the World: The Historical Geography of Tea, Coffee, and Soda (Part II) (Clay County residents \$15 per course)	10/29			\$50
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI				
The Devil's Music: A Story about Rock 'n' Roll (No charge for residents of McCrite Plaza Briarcliff)	10/31			\$50
LAWRENCE				
An Insider's Guide to the Federal Reserve	10/31			\$50
Arts of China: The Bronze Age	11/19			\$50
Brown v. Board of Education: The Untold Stories	10/8			\$50
Carols for Christmas	12/5			\$25
Chris Thile: Mandolin Magic	11/21			\$25
Conquistadors in Kansas	11/26			\$50
Deutsch, Däätsch, and Dietsch: The Survival of German Immigrant Dialects in Kansas and Missouri	11/21			\$25
I Goes to Fight Mit Sigel: The German-American Experience in the U.S. Civil War	10/29			\$50
J.R.R. Tolkien's Bookshelf	9/19			\$35
Khrushchev's Cornfields: The 1955 Soviet Agricultural Exchange	11/19			\$25
KU's Historic Athletics Rivalries: K State, Nebraska and Missouri	9/19			\$50
Lowlands, Highlands, Islands: The Geography of Scotland	10/8			\$50

COURSE	START DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	FEE
Making Tracks: American Railroads Then and Now	10/29			\$50
Paul Laird Presents Stephen Schwartz: From Godspell to Wicked <i>(No charge for residents of Brandon Woods)</i>	11/20			\$50
Rajah Rabbits, Culture Farms and the Kansas City Shuffle	10/17			\$35
Several Women Poets	10/7			\$50
Stories and Songs of Big Rivers and Great Lakes	10/10			\$50
The Craft of Gardens in China: Suzhou and Beijing	10/10			\$50
The Dirty Thirties: The Depression, the New Deal, and the Dust Bowl	9/19			\$50
The Willows Maternity Sanitarium, Kansas City and America's Unwed Mothers	9/19			\$50
Triumph of a Heretic: The Philosophy and Influence of Spinoza	9/17			\$50
Valley of the Kings, Queens, and Monkeys	10/31			\$50
OLATHE				
Three Ship Disasters of the 20th Century: Titanic, Lusitania, and Andrea Doria <i>(no charge for residents of Aberdeen Village)</i>	9/18			\$50
OVERLAND PARK				
1861: America Goes to War	10/16			\$50
A Family, Freud, and Friendliness: The Menninger Clinic in Topeka	11/18			\$50
Adventures in Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright <i>(No charge upfront for residents of Tallgrass Creek)</i>	11/26			\$50
Battle of the Chosin Reservoir	11/4			\$25
Brown v. Board of Education: The Untold Stories	9/18			\$50
Bread for My Enemies: How Harry Truman, Herbert Hoover, and Lucius Clay Saved West Germany From Starvation and Communism	10/9			\$25
Climate Change: What Will Happen?	11/13			\$25
Don't Have a Heart Attack	12/9			\$25
Health Care in the United States <i>(No charge upfront for residents of Tallgrass Creek)</i>	10/29			\$50
History of the U.S. - Mexico Border	10/7			\$50
King Coal in Kansas	9/16			\$50
Mindfulness/Meditation and Art	10/28			\$25
Negro League Baseball World Series: The Long Forgotten Other Fall Classic	9/25			\$35
Norse Folklore	11/20			\$50
Sympathy for the Devil's Music: A Story about Rock 'n' Roll Continues	11/18			\$50
The Devil's Music: A Story about Rock 'n' Roll	10/31			\$50
The Great Struggle for World Dominance	10/30			\$35

COURSE	START DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	FEE
The Spencers of Kansas: Champions of Culture and Commerce	10/30			\$50
The Trumans	11/4			\$25
The Vietnam War and Modern Memory	11/20			\$50
The Wild Geologic History of the Caribbean Tectonic Plate	9/18			\$25
Thomas Edison: An American Genius	10/7			\$50
Top 10 Ways to Live Longer	10/28			\$25
United States Constitutional Amendments: A Different Way of Studying United States History	10/7			\$50
Visions of the Future: Utopias and Dystopias	9/16			\$50
Why Are We Here? A Very Brief Introduction to Philosophy	11/18			\$50
World Mysticism: The Quest to Merge With the Ultimate	10/9			\$50
PRAIRIE VILLAGE				
United States and World War II: Forgotten Military and Civilian Heroes and Heroines <i>(no charge for residents of Claridge Court)</i>	10/9			\$50
ROELAND PARK				
Great Women Composers	11/1			\$50
The World of Rodgers and Hammerstein	10/11			\$50
TOPEKA				
All New, Historical Movies, The Sequel: How Historical Are They?	10/10			\$50
From Front Porches to Rallies: Presidential Campaigns Through History <i>(No charge for residents of Brewster Place)</i>	9/17			\$50
Irish, German, and Italian Immigrants in 19th and 20th Century America <i>(No charge for residents of Aldersgate Village)</i>	10/8			\$50
Nature Wars - Our Battles With Vegetation, Wildlife, and Water <i>(No charge for residents of Brewster Place)</i>	11/19			\$50
On the Road: Highways, Cars, and Vacations of a Bygone Era	11/20			\$50
The Small Town in Kansas: The Interminable Struggle for Survival <i>(No charge for residents of McCrite Plaza Topeka)</i>	9/18			\$50
World War I: Collective European Suicide	10/9			\$50
ONLINE				
American POWs in Vietnam 1963-1979	10/31			\$50
Camels. Dolphins. Mules.	9/19			\$50
CapCut	9/16			\$50
Flavors of Germany: Culinary Delights, Beer Heritage, and Holiday Magic	11/21			\$50
From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis	10/8			\$50

COURSE	START DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	FEE
Legendary Foods of Europe: France: Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité...and Food	10/10			\$50
Legendary Foods of China	11/12			\$25
Legendary Foods of Japan	11/5			\$25
Smartphone Filmmaking	11/18			\$50
Speleothems	11/4			\$25
The Grand Canyon	10/9			\$50
Unusual Places	11/19			\$50
What is the “Tao Te Ching?”	11/4			\$25
Subtotal of all courses (if you qualify for partner discounts, calculate your subtotal to reflect this)			\$	
C. SPECIAL EVENTS				
Christmas Through the Ages in Historic Lecompton	11/8			\$40
Experience the Native Fashion Exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art	10/11			\$50
Historic Kansas City Bus Tour	9/12			\$125
Unveiling Crimson Glory: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at KU Athletics				
	KU Basketball Uniforms	9/13		TBD
	KU Basketball Deep Dive	TBD		TBD
Subtotal of all special events			\$	

D. BE A FRIEND OF KU OSHER

\$50 Supporter \$75 Patron \$100 Benefactor \$250 Sponsor \$500 Trustee \$1000+ Regent Other \$

Subtotal of all donations \$

E. MEMBERSHIP (Membership in Osher is \$25 annually, with the membership year starting at the fall semester. Membership is require to register for any Osher class, including special events and trips. If you have not paid your membership fee, you may add it here.)

Subtotal of membership fee \$

GRAND TOTAL DUE (Add subtotals for total payment) \$

ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE AND DISCOUNTED CLASSES

Residents of participating partner sites or Clay County and members of the University of Kansas Alumni Association, K-State Alumni Association, or Washburn University Alumni Association are eligible for free or discounted classes. Free or discounted admission may be available based on your residence or alumni status, as indicated next to the course titles in the registration form. For a complete list of participating partner sites, counties, and alumni associations that qualify for discounts, please see page 30.

If you're filling out the registration form on your own, please indicate the residential community, county of residence, and/or alumni membership that qualifies you for a discount in Section A. To select your classes, simply check the box next to each course you wish to attend. When calculating your course subtotal, be sure to apply any applicable discounts.

If you need help, call the registration team at 785-864-6779 or TTD 800-766-3777. Let them know if you are a resident of a partner site, a Clay County resident, or a member of a participating alumni association, and they will assist you in registering and applying your discount.

WAYS TO REGISTER AND PAY

ONLINE: Register online at osher.ku.edu and pay with credit card

PHONE: Register by calling (785) 864-6779 or TTD (800) 766-3777 and pay with credit card

MAIL: Complete and mail the registration form and check (payable to the University of Kansas) to KU Jayhawk Global, 12600 Quivira Road, Overland Park, KS 662213

NOTE: This address is for mail-in registrations ONLY. For security reasons, KU cannot accept credit card information written on the registration form. If you wish to pay by credit card, please register online at osher.ku.edu or call our Registration Team at 785-864-6779.

IN PERSON: Bring your completed registration form and check (payable to the University of Kansas) to 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER DISCOUNTS: Current members of the alumni associations at K-State, Washburn University and the University of Kansas can receive a \$10 discount, once per semester, on any course. Does not apply to special events. Call 785-864-6779 for more information.

CLASS CANCELLATION: Although unlikely, a class may be canceled due to low enrollment or other circumstances beyond the Institute's control. Members will be notified by email and have the option to transfer their registration to another course, donate their fee, or request a refund.

CLAY COUNTY RESIDENT DISCOUNTS: Residents of Clay County are able to enroll in courses offered in Clay County for \$15. All other courses are available at the listed price.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: Membership in Osher is \$25 annually, with the membership year starting at the fall semester. Membership is required to register for any Osher class, including special events and trips. By becoming a member, you are making an investment in the program and the community, as 100% of membership fees benefit the KU Osher Institute.

PARTNER SITE DISCOUNTS: Residents of participating partner sites are eligible for free or discounted admission for courses offered at the partner site location. Participating sites are listed on page 30 and indicated next to the course titles in the registration form.

PRIVACY POLICY: KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kansas does not share, sell, or rent its mailing lists. You have our assurance that any information you provide will be held in confidence by the Institute. We occasionally use mailing lists that we have leased. If you receive unwanted communication from the Institute, it is because your name appears on a list we have acquired from another source. In this case, please accept our apologies.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY: We accommodate persons with disabilities. Please call 785-864-6779 to be connected to someone who can assist. To ensure accommodation, please register at least four weeks before the start of the class. See the nondiscrimination policies that follow.

REFUND POLICY: If there is no stated deadline, a written or emailed request (jayhawkglobal@ku.edu) for a refund will be honored up to one week before a course or special event begins. There will be a \$5 administrative fee for all courses. Special event refund fees vary per event. A \$30 fee will be charged for returned checks.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY: The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression, and genetic information in the university's programs and activities. Retaliation is also prohibited by university policy. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies and are the Title IX coordinators for their respective campuses: Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, civilrights@ku.edu, Room 1082, Dole Human Development Center, 1000 Sunnyside Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045, 785-864-6414, 711 TTY (for the Lawrence, Edwards, Parsons, Yoder, and Topeka campuses); Director, Equal Opportunity Office, Mail Stop 7004, 4330 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Fairway, KS 66205, 913-588-8011, 711 TTY (for the Wichita, Salina, and Kansas City, Kansas medical center campuses).

ZOOM COURSE PARTICIPATION: An individual registration is required for each person, as Zoom links are not to be shared.

Osher
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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

FALL 2024

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call 785-864-6779 or go online
at osher.ku.edu.**

