

# Osher LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Spring 2025

Enrichment short courses & special events specially developed for folks 50 and better.



No homework. No tests. No pressure. It's just learning for the joy of it!

Enroll now at [osher.ku.edu](https://osher.ku.edu)!

[osher.ku.edu](https://osher.ku.edu)

**KU** JAYHAWK  
GLOBAL  
The University of Kansas

# //////////////////// TABLE OF CONTENTS //////////////////////

Letter from the Director.....	2
Special Event Descriptions .....	3
Course Descriptions.....	6
How To Become A Friend Of KU Osher.....	27
Acknowledgments.....	27
Registration Form ( <i>includes list of courses by location</i> ).....	28
Ways to Register, Pay, and Policies.....	31



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

Hello from Osher!

Welcome to your Spring 2025 Catalog of Osher Classes! Inside, you will find a world of adventure, learning and fun. I can't think of a better way to hold off those winter blues than joining your fellow Osher students in class, be it in Lawrence, at our Edwards Campus in Overland Park, at one of our many partner sites around the state or even from the comfort of your own home.

You will notice a few changes to this catalog, all designed to make your Osher experience more positive. Some of these changes are the result of the Osher

Membership Survey completed by many of you this past fall. Overwhelmingly, you asked for new curriculum and we heard you; we have added several new classes this semester covering topics that include Queen Elizabeth II, the Civil War and metaphysics. To make it easier to find classes based on your interests, courses are now listed by topic, instead of alphabetically.


You will also notice that the schedule of classes goes through the end of June; typically, spring semester of classes ends at the beginning of May. Starting in 2025, KU Osher will publish just two class catalogs annually, instead of three, in Spring and in Fall. This change will not affect programming; Osher will continue to offer classes throughout the calendar year. The cost savings of eliminating the summer catalog are substantial and will allow us to reinvest those funds into new programming and events.

Finally, I am excited to share that Osher is launching a new e-newsletter, Osher Connections! This monthly publication will focus on new class announcements, instructor, student and partner profiles, and other great information to make your Osher experience even greater. Osher Connections will drop the first Monday of each month; make sure to check your email and let us know if you are not getting the newsletter.

As always, we are thrilled to offer you, our community of lifelong learners, these opportunities to continue your pursuit of knowledge. No matter where your interests lie, there is something for everyone at Osher. I encourage you to try something new in this New Year and register for classes today!

Jennifer Kraenzle  
Director of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
785-864-1758  
[jkraenzle@ku.edu](mailto:jkraenzle@ku.edu)



A group of people, mostly older adults, are gathered in front of a building with a dark facade and a sign that reads "UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS". Many of the people are waving their hands. In the foreground, a man on the left is wearing a dark green button-down shirt and blue jeans, waving enthusiastically. Next to him is a woman in a blue and white striped sweater, also waving. To her right is a man in a green polo shirt and a grey jacket, looking towards the camera. The background shows more people and a tree with white blossoms hanging over the building. A large blue diagonal graphic is on the right side of the page.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

# *SPECIAL EVENTS*





## U.S.A. Track and Field: KU's Connection to Olympic History

**April 23, 30 & May 7**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

In-Person and Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

Tim Weaver, KU alum and long-time manager of the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team, will share the connection between KU and the storied athletes that have competed for the U.S. at the Olympics. Tim has supported the team at eight different Olympic games, included the recent games in Paris. Along with Coach Stanley Redwine, Tim will bring an insider's perspective on the games to Osher, including what it takes to get 300 people from the U.S. to Paris at the same time, what the athletes do to train, and just what was in those famous chocolate muffins at the Paris Games.



## Tour of Historic Strawberry Hill

**May 9**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In-person

Strawberry Hill, Kansas City, KS

Meet at St. Andrews Office Building (Lawrence) and Edwards Campus (Overland Park)

### Description

The Historic Strawberry Hill Neighborhood in Kansas City, KS was established in the late 1800s by mostly Eastern European immigrants who worked in the nearby meat-packing plants in the West Bottoms. Today, Strawberry Hill is a mix of Serbian, Polish and Hispanic cultures. This event will feature a one-mile walk through the neighborhood, guided by Lisa Pena of Urban Hikes KC, and a tour of the Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center, located in a Beaux-Arts mansion that was converted to an orphanage after the Spanish flu epidemic. Lunch will be at the St. John's Catholic Club, a bowling alley and pub in the basement of St. John's Church.





## Escape to Margaritaville at Theatre Lawrence

**June 19**

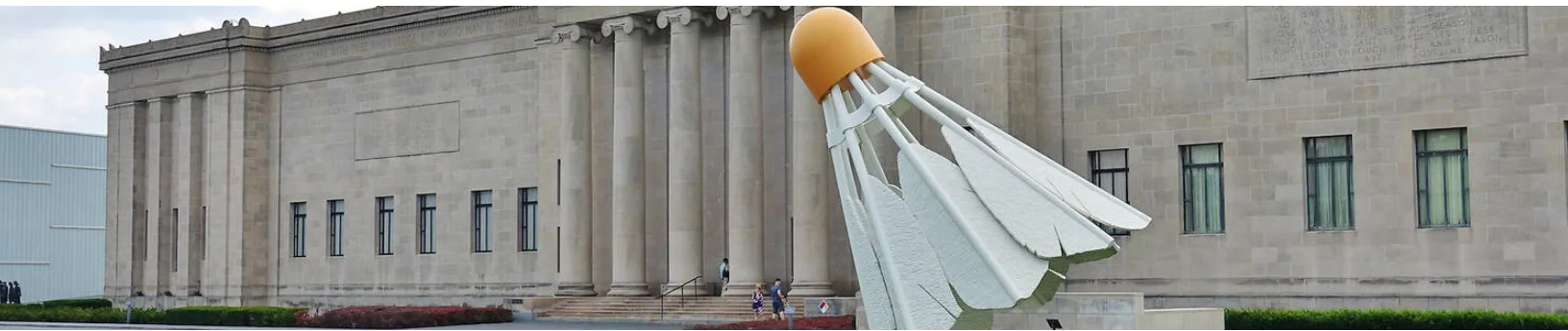
6:00 p.m.

In-Person

Theatre Lawrence

### Description

It's time for a relaxing, feel-good musical journey. Tully is a beach bum living a carefree life at the Margaritaville Hotel. That is until hardworking Rachel arrives. Romance, a volcano, and a collection of Jimmy Buffett favorites including "Cheeseburger in Paradise," and "Margaritaville" make for a perfect escape to the beach. This favorite Osher event includes dinner and pre-show talk with the director. This event will sell out!



## Kansas City's Art Museums

**April 11**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In-Person

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, The Kemper Museum of Art, The National Toy and Miniature Museum

### Description

This new event from Osher gives students a look at three of Kansas City's artistic crown jewels. The morning will start at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, with a special docent-led tour. After lunch, we will head across the street to the Kemper Museum of Art for a taste of modern art curated and collected by the Kemper Family. We will end the day with some whimsy at the National Toy and Miniature Museum. Class fee includes docent-led tours and lunch.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

# ***ARTS & HUMANITIES***





# ART

## American Landscape Photography: Images of a Changing Reality

Instructor: Dr. James Showalter

**Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11**

2 - 4 p.m.

Online

### Description

Landscape surrounds and shapes us, but it changes. When photography came to the U.S. in 1839, people immediately turned the camera on the land. The torn land of the Civil War was shown, and then the great West in the 19th century. But there was also the new cityscape emerging. This will be a tour of nearly 200 years of imaging our nation by a variety of humans.

## The Biblical Art of Marc Chagall

Instructor: Sarah Rosenson

**Jan. 30, Feb. 6 & 13**

2 - 4 p.m.

Online

### Description

There is a museum in Nice, France devoted exclusively to paintings of biblical scenes by the Jewish painter Marc Chagall. At the beginning of the first session of this interactive online class we will discuss Chagall's biography. In every session we will read and discuss the text of a Bible story he depicted, closely examine one or two of his wonderful paintings, and compare them to works by other artists.



# LITERATURE

## J.R.R. Tolkien's Bookshelf

Instructor: Vic Peterson

**April 21, 28 & May 5**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

Northland Innovation Center, 6889 N Oak Trafficway, Gladstone

### Description

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.

## Robert Burns in 37 Poems

Instructor: Tom Averill

**Feb. 26, March 5 & 12**

10 a.m. - Noon

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

The national poet of Scotland is most famous, perhaps, for "Auld Lang Syne" and "To a Mouse," with its "best laid schemes o' mice an' men." "Auld Lang Syne" (Old Long Since), was written to be set to one of the over 200 Scottish tunes Burns collected. "To a Mouse" was a favorite of Abraham Lincoln, who recited it from memory at a State dinner two weeks before his assassination. In all, Burns (1759-1796) wrote thousands of poems, satires, tales, love ballads, celebrations, political protests, and histories. Join Tom Averill for readings, recitations and discussions of a sampling of 25 Burns poems, with background from Scottish history and Burns' life.





# MUSIC

## 1971: The Year Rock Exploded

Instructor: Steve Lopes

**Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10**

2 – 4 p.m.

In-Person

Northland Innovation Center, 6889 N Oak Trafficway, Gladstone

### Description

New Year's Eve 1970, Paul McCartney initiated legal action that led to the demise of the Beatles and their amazing era of creative music. Was music innovation dead or was 1971 the beginning of a renaissance? Many record labels were open to creative singer/songwriters experimenting with production techniques that laid the groundwork for disco, punk, indie, new wave, and electronica. All the while, introducing some pretty good sounds. Come join the conversation.

## American Musical Primer

Instructor: Paul Laird

**Feb. 24, March 3 & 10**

10 a.m. – Noon

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

This course will be a brisk survey of 15 major figures in the history of music in the United States, representing genres of both classical and various types of popular music: William Billings, Stephen Foster, Louis Moreau Gottschalk, John Philip Sousa, Amy Beach, George M. Cohan, Florence Price, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Leonard Bernstein, Miles Davis, and Elvis Presley.

## Annual Midwestern Music Festivals

Instructor: Jean M. Hein

### March 27

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description

Would you like to learn about highly entertaining annual midwestern music festivals? This class will explore music festivals from a twelve-state area with emphasis on festivals in Kansas and nearby states. These festivals feature a large variety of musical styles. Their settings range from casual to formal, indoors or outdoors, with an admission charge from free to very expensive. An extensive list of festival websites will be provided with the class.

## One Hit Wonders of Classical Music

Instructor: Don F. Dagenais

### March 27, April 3 & 10

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

McCrite Plaza at Briarcliff, 1201 NW Tullison Road, Kansas City, MO

### Description

There are many classical music composers who have written just one work that is considered "great." This course features a number of composers who have written just one lasting classical composition that is still worth listening to today. We'll talk a bit about the composer and then listen to excerpts from the piece.

## The Life of Leonard Bernstein

Instructor: Paul Laird

### Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11

1 - 3 p.m.

In-Person

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

### Description

Few American musicians have achieved the level of celebrity enjoyed by Leonard Bernstein, who simultaneously pursued busy careers as a conductor, composer of both concert music and Broadway shows, pianist, and musical educator/commentator on television. In this class we will explore each of these roles as well as Bernstein's biography to get to know this fascinating figure and his multiple roles in American music.



## Yo Yo Ma

Instructor: Jean M. Hein

**April 3**

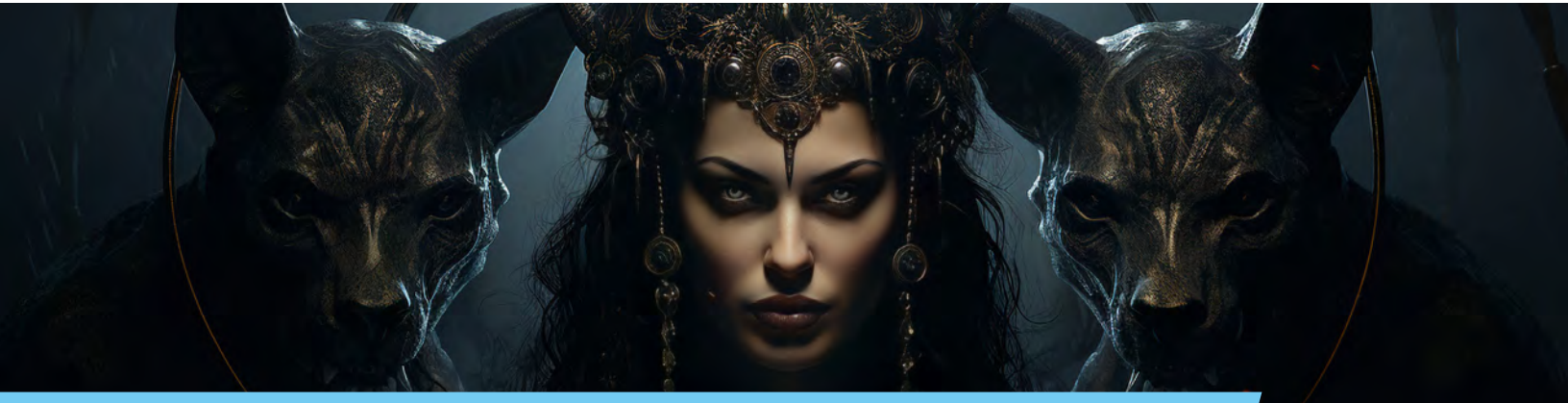
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description

An exploration of the music and artistry of the world's foremost cellist and music ambassador. Learn about Yo Yo Ma's upbringing and his appreciation for the music of different cultures and the importance of preserving these musical traditions.



## MYTHOLOGY & RELIGION

## We Were Not Monsters

Instructor: Dr. Shari Tarbet

**Feb. 27, March 6 & 13**

2 - 4 p.m.

Online

### Description

Furies, Harpies, Gorgons, whores, and witches are among the monsters of mythology as well as Hecate, Kali, Tiamat, and Cailleach. Today we know them as women or deities intent on doing some sort of harm that in some cases includes seduction. However, this was not originally so. This course explores how these versions of the Divine Feminine were demonized over time once patriarchal cultures invaded the areas in which they were worshiped.



# PHILOSOPHY

## Fantastic Realms: The Visions of Gnosticism

Instructor: Jim Gaither

**April 23, 30 & May 7**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

Gnosticism is a type of spirituality that describes visions of spiritual dimensions beyond our earthly existence. The Greek word “gnosis” translates roughly as “knowledge,” “awareness,” and “science.” It generally refers to personal, experiential knowledge rather than intellectual knowledge from reasoning or accumulation of information. The forms of spirituality referred to as “Gnostic” involve purported knowledge of spiritual dimensions, angels, creation, the nature of humanity and other religious themes based on personal visions or encounters with divine beings. This course will explore examples of Gnostic literature, including early Christian Gnosticism, “The Tibetan Book of the Dead” and the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.

## The Impact of Transcendentalism on American and World Culture

Instructor: Jim Gaither

**Feb. 25, March 4 & 11**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description

In 19th century New England the writings of a group of intellectuals known as “Transcendentalists” were widely read and discussed throughout America. Today those writings are regarded primarily as a genre of literature. However, a great variety of ideas are encompassed in Transcendentalism and as a movement it had a significant lasting impact on the art, politics, philosophy and spirituality of American society. In addition, Transcendentalism affected thought and politics in India and world culture. This course will explore the ideas and impact of Transcendentalists including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Walt Whitman and others.





COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

# ***HEALTH & MEDICINE***



## Health Care in America

Instructor: Shirley Hill

**April 23, 30 & May 7**

10 a.m. - Noon

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

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.





# MEDICINE

## Don't Have A Heart Attack

Instructor: Keith Jantz

**May 9**

10 a.m. - Noon

In-Person

Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Drive, Roeland Park

### Description

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, diabetes, will be presented covering causative factors and treatment options, both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

# ***HISTORY & POLITICS***







# AMERICAN HISTORY

## 60 Years Later: The JFK Assassination

Instructor: Brian Edwards

**Feb. 24, March 3 & 10**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

Tallgrass Creek Retirement, 13800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park

**June 2, 9 & 16**

1 - 3 p.m.

In-Person

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

### Description

This course will examine the political and social climate of the early 1960s and the circumstances involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. This course will discuss the major theories as to who was likely behind the assassination. Numerous photographs which were not available to the public in 1963 will be utilized during the course. The course will conclude with an in-depth examination of an eyewitness, who was ignored by the federal government, who observed a man shoot at the President from behind a picket fence.



## 1862: The War's Second Year

Instructor: Ethan Rafuse

**April 24, May 1 & 8**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description

This course will look at the military history of the second year of the American Civil War. It will address military operations in Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, and elsewhere that took place in 1862, as well as the strategic and political contexts that shaped their conduct. It will also look at the leaders, such as George McClellan, Robert E. Lee, Braxton Bragg, and Ulysses S. Grant, whose decisions and leadership shaped the course, conduct, and outcome of the year's great campaigns.

## America's Forgotten Wars

Instructor: Bob Smith

**March 25, April 1 & 8**

1 - 3 p.m.

In-Person

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

### Description

We'll examine three often-overlooked conflicts in our nation's history. First, we'll focus on the undeclared 1798-1800 Quasi War with France. This maritime conflict was significant as the fledgling American Navy's baptism of fire against a foreign power, Revolutionary France. Then we'll review the American Navy's second serious conflict - the war against the Barbary States (1801-1805) when President Thomas Jefferson ordered a naval expedition to the Mediterranean to curb piratical activities. Finally, we'll focus on the Spanish-American War, a four-month war with Spain that launched America as an international power and made national heroes of Theodore Roosevelt and his "Rough Riders."

## Declaration of Independence: 250 years old

Instructor: Russ Hutchins

**March 24, 31 & April 7**

10 a.m. - Noon

Online

### Description

The 250th birthday of the Declaration of Independence is in 2025. We will look at the history, the signers, and how the document has changed other nations as well. The great experiment in history has stood the test of time under many pressures in American history. Join us as we also look at the Broadway play "1776" and events that unfolded that month of July in 1776 and after.



## Famous Women in History

Instructor: Marlene Katz

**Feb. 26, March 5 & 12**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

Claridge Court, 8101 Mission Road, Prairie Village

### Description

Long-time Osher instructor Marlene Katz once again brings history to life in her unique classes centered around famous women throughout history. This semester, Marlene is bringing the stories of three women who were influential in very different ways: Queen Elizabeth II, Sarah Cannon, better known as Minnie Pearl, and Bess Truman. Marlene will bring the lives of these amazing women to Osher through a combination of biographical facts and engaging story-telling.

## Finding the Forgotten: Lost Stories of Four American Soldiers

Instructor: Kevin Boatright

**Feb. 26, March 5 & 12**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

**June 5, 12 & 19**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description

This class will examine three relatives of the instructor who served in the U.S. Army in World War I and II-and a fourth soldier (unrelated) who fought for the Confederacy. Each had a remarkable wartime story that had been largely forgotten. We'll see how in each case a single clue led to an understanding of their experiences and the sacrifices they endured, and a surprising discovery at the end of each search.

## Frederick Douglass: From Enslaved Man to Statesman

Instructor: Paul Post

**June 2, 9 & 16**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

Northland Innovation Center, 6889 N Oak Trafficway, Gladstone

### Description

Frederick Douglass was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping enslavement in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York. We'll explore his life in enslavement, look at his autobiographies and other writings, and conclude with his life in Washington, D.C. as an elder statesman.

## From Gilded Age to Progressive Era

Instructor: Carl Graves

**March 26, April 2 & 9**

2 – 4 p.m.

In-Person

McCrite Plaza, 1608 SW 37th St., Topeka

### Description

The Gilded Age (1876-1896) was a time of unprecedented American industrial expansion, which generated powerful corporate empires, rising inequality, violent worker-management clashes, populist discontent in farm states like Kansas, as well as remedies ranging from “free silver” to socialism. During the Progressive Era (1900-1916), Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson helped promote more modest reforms, such as “trust busting” laws and court rulings, the Federal Reserve System, and Meat Inspection Act. Were people like Andrew Carnegie “captains of Industry” or “robber barons”? We tackle this and other questions by examining conflicting viewpoints as well as film clips from historical documentaries.

## History of the Productiveness of Congress

Instructor: Russ Hutchins

**April 21, 28 & May 5**

10 a.m. - Noon

Online

### Description

The class will examine the first Congress to the present day on how productive they were in passing legislation to make America what it is today. How the Congress will work with the President and Supreme Court will be discussed. Sometimes the Congress was very productive in getting states added to the country, the expansion of civil rights, and fighting wars. Other times a stalemate over political ideas and conflicts with the President and Court. Deadlock versus full cooperation will be discussed. We will look at each President and Congress and see the progress and lack of progress as the country moves forward from 1791 to 2025. Join us for a trip to explore the Acts of Congress.

## Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light

Instructor: Irv Lubliner

**April 25**

10 a.m. - Noon

Online

### Description

Before she died in 1974, Felicia Bornstein Lubliner wrote about her internment in ghettos and concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Poland, powerful stories published by her son. Irving Lubliner will share excerpts from Only Hope: A Survivor's Stories of the Holocaust, shedding light on his mother's fortitude and indomitable spirit, as well as his own experience as a child of Holocaust survivors.



## Significant First Ladies of the Modern Era

Instructor: Anita Tebbe

**March 24, 31 & April 7**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

Northland Innovation Center, 6889 N Oak Trafficway, Gladstone

### Description

We will look at eight U.S. first ladies who lived in the 20th and 21st centuries. They are not as well known as some of the other first ladies, but they made impressive contributions to the United States. We will study Lou Hoover, Bess Truman, Mamie Eisenhower, Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, Rosalynn Carter, Barbara Bush, and Laura Bush.

## The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Instructor: Charles “Chick” Keller

**May 5**

10 a.m. - Noon

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description:

The first three industrial revolutions created 100 to 1 productivity increases and created new industries. The class will review the first three industrial revolutions and then examine how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, robotics, and 6G wireless will likely form the foundation for the fourth Industrial Revolution. Potential changes in how life might change in this new environment will be examined.

## The Segregation and Desegregation of Baseball: The Steps Leading to Jackie Robinson

Instructor: Terry Rodenberg

**May 2**

10 a.m. - Noon

In-Person

Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Drive, Roeland Park

**April 7**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

While the signing of Jackie Robinson by the Brooklyn Dodgers is well known, the historical and sociological circumstances behind this are often neglected. This presentation will look at the factors behind the exclusion of African American baseball players from the Civil War through the depression years of the 1930s.

## Today's Military

Instructor: Thomas A. Gray

**Feb. 27, March 6 & 13**

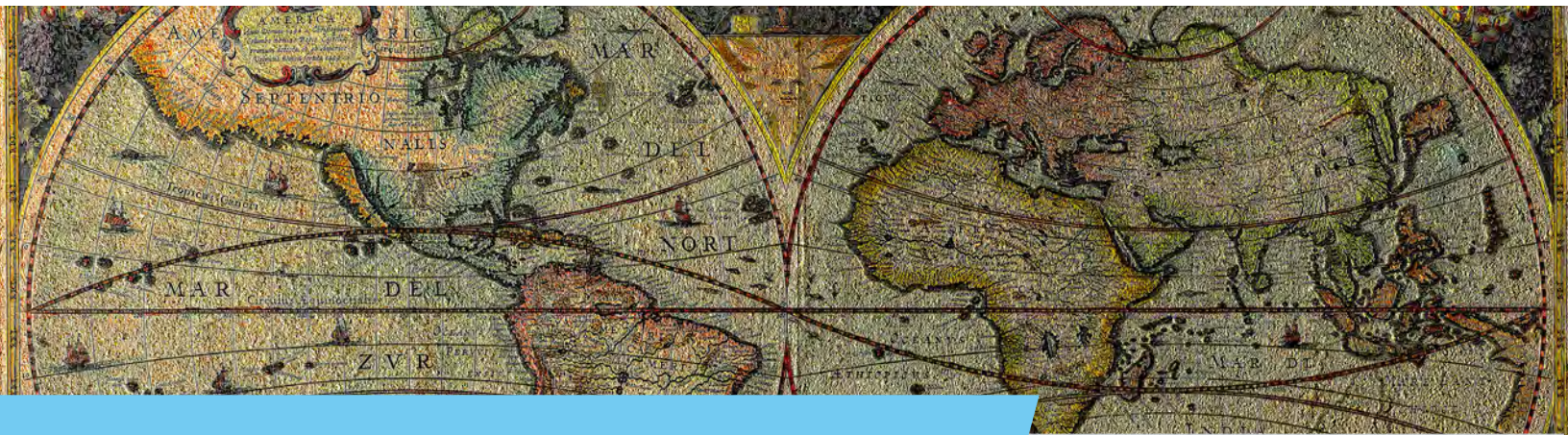
2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

McCrite Plaza, Briarcliff, 1201 NW Tullison Road, Kansas City, MO

### Description

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.



# ANCIENT HISTORY

## The First Emperor: The Art, Archaeology and Culture of Early Imperial China

Instructor: Bob Thorp

**Feb. 25, March 4 & 11**

10 a.m. - Noon

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description

In the late 3rd century BCE, the state of Qin achieved a monumental feat: the unification of most of China Proper, an imperial order that would endure until the 20th century. How was this accomplished and how did this new creation take shape to become the longest-lasting regime in East Asia? The famed terra cotta warriors of Xi'an are but one part of this saga, and the starting point for our archaeological investigation of this subject.





## CURRENT EVENTS

### Climate Change: The Cause, Impact and Solutions

Instructor: Charles “Chick” Keller

**April 21, 28**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

#### Description

Climate change is real and impacts from climate change are emerging. Despite the many efforts under way, we are not winning the battle to save the planet. Our way of life is threatened and the choices we make now are important. The class will highlight current and potential future impacts to thwart climate change, discuss alternative actions we might take, and what might happen.



# LOCAL HISTORY

## German Settlements and Culture in Kansas

Instructor: William D. Keel

**Feb. 26, March 5 & 12**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

Brandon Woods Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace, Lawrence

### Description

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.

## More Kansas Characters

Instructor: Thomas Luellen

**Feb. 27, March 6 & 13**

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

In-Person

KU Osher Institute, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence

### Description

Kansas has been home to a variety of unique, colorful and important individuals. First will be Joseph G. McCoy, the entrepreneur who brought cattle from the fields of Texas to the railroads at Abilene, creating the iconic cowboy image. Next will be Tom Pendergast, whose political machine ran Kansas City for almost 30 years. William Allen White, editor of the Emporia Gazette, was an advisor to eight U.S. presidents. Finally, we'll focus on Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, and his years at the University of Kansas, including mentoring Hall of Famer John McLendon, who could not play at Kansas because he was African American.

## More Voices of the Willows

Instructor: KelLee Parr

**April 21, 28 & May 5**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

We'll explore the early 20th century world of adoption in Kansas City and share adoptees' and birth mothers' heartwarming and sometimes heart wrenching stories. Ranging from 1908 until 1969, these voices express the common need to know "Who am I?", longing for medical history, fear of hurting adoptive parents, and guilt for being forced to give up a baby. One voice is of a Willows baby who grew up to be the governor of Kansas.

## The Small Town in Kansas: The Interminable Struggle for Survival

Instructor: Tom Schmiedeler

**April 21, 28, May 5**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person

Tallgrass Creek Retirement, 13800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park

### Description

The historical geography of small towns reveals that their struggles for economic viability began shortly after settlement. Climatic misconceptions, ineffectual land alienation laws, and the town site activities of railroads led to over settlement and too many towns. The platting of new towns continued despite depopulation and the abandonment of rail lines. We'll explore the various survival strategies implemented.

## The Willows Maternity Sanitarium and Kansas City: The Adoption Hub of America

Instructor: KelLee Parr

**Feb. 24, March 3 & 10**

2 - 4 p.m.

In-Person & Online

KU Edwards Campus, 12610 Quivira Road, Overland Park

### Description

This course will share the reunion of a mother and daughter 66 years after being separated at birth at the Willows Maternity Sanitarium. We will delve into the history of the Willows and dozens of other maternity homes that brought more than 100,000 young women shrouded in secrecy to Kansas City.



## ////// 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](http://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](mailto:osher@ku.edu).



Go to [jayhawkglobal.ku.edu/osher-instructors](http://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](http://aberdeenvillage.com)

**Aldersgate Village Life Plan Community**  
[aldersgatevillage.org](http://aldersgatevillage.org)

**Brandon Woods at Alvamar**  
[brandonwoods.com](http://brandonwoods.com)

**Brewster Place**  
[brewsterplace.org](http://brewsterplace.org)

**Claridge Court**  
[claridgecourt.com](http://claridgecourt.com)

**Clay County Senior Services (Clay County Residents)**  
[claycoseniors.org](http://claycoseniors.org)

**McCrite Plaza Briarcliff**  
[mccriteplaza.com/briarcliff/](http://mccriteplaza.com/briarcliff/)

**Tallgrass Creek**  
[www.ericksonseniorliving.com/tallgrass-creek](http://www.ericksonseniorliving.com/tallgrass-creek)

### Alumni Discounts:

**Kansas State University**  
[k-state.com](http://k-state.com)

**KU Alumni Association**  
[kualumni.org](http://kualumni.org)

**Washburn University**  
[washburn.edu](http://washburn.edu)

### Other Event Partners:

**Eudora Community Museum**  
**Emporia Senior Center**

**Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging**  
[jhawkaaa.org](http://jhawkaaa.org)

**Johnson County Parks & Recreation**  
[jcprd.com](http://jcprd.com)

**KU Edwards Campus**  
[edwards-campus.ku.edu](http://edwards-campus.ku.edu)

**KU Endowment Association**  
[kuendowment.org](http://kuendowment.org)

**Riley County Senior Center**

**Senior Resource Center-Douglas Co**  
[yoursrc.org](http://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](http://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
<b>GLADSTONE, MISSOURI</b> (Clay County residents \$15 per course, open to the public for regular price)				
1971: The Year Rock Exploded (Clay County residents \$15 per course)	1/27			\$50
Significant First Ladies of the Modern Era (Clay County residents \$15 per course)	3/24			\$50
J.R.R. Tolkien's Bookshelf (Clay County residents \$15 per course)	4/21			\$50
Frederick Douglass: From Enslaved Man to Statesman (Clay County residents \$15 per course)	6/2			\$50
<b>KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI</b>				
Today's Military (No charge for residents of McCrite Plaza Briarcliff)	2/27			\$50
One Hit Wonders of Classical Music (No charge for residents of McCrite Plaza Briarcliff)	3/27			\$50
<b>LAWRENCE</b>				
The First Emperor: The Art, Archaeology and Culture of Early Imperial China	2/25			\$50
The Impact of Transcendentalism on American and World Culture	2/25			\$50
German Settlements and Culture in Kansas (No charge for residents of Brandon Woods)	2/26			\$50
More Kansas Characters	2/27			\$50
Annual Midwestern Music Festivals	3/27			\$25
Yo Yo Ma	4/3			\$25
1862: The War's Second Year	4/24			\$50
The Fourth Industrial Revolution	5/5			\$25
Finding the Forgotten: Lost Stories of Four American Soldiers	6/5			\$50



COURSE	START DATE	IN-PERSON	ONLINE	FEE
<b>OVERLAND PARK</b>				
60 Years Later: The JFK Assassination (No charge upfront for residents of Tallgrass Creek)	2/24			\$50
American Musical Primer	2/24			\$50
The Willows Maternity Sanitarium and Kansas City: The Adoption Hub of America	2/24			\$25
Finding the Forgotten: Lost Stories of Four American Soldiers	2/26			\$50
Robert Burns in 37 Poems	2/26			\$50
The Segregation and Desegregation of Baseball: The Steps Leading to Jackie Robinson	4/7			\$25
Climate Change: The Cause, Impact and Solutions	4/21			\$35
More Voices of the Willows	4/21			\$50
The Small Town in Kansas: The Interminable Struggle for Survival (No charge upfront for residents of Tallgrass Creek)	4/21			\$50
Fantastic Realms: The Visions of Gnosticism	4/23			\$50
Health Care in America	4/23			\$25
<b>PRAIRIE VILLAGE</b>				
Famous Women in History (no charge for residents of Claridge Court)	2/26			\$50
<b>ROELAND PARK</b>				
The Segregation and Desegregation of Baseball: The Steps Leading to Jackie Robinson	5/2			\$25
Don't Have A Heart Attack	5/9			\$25
<b>TOPEKA</b>				
The Life of Leonard Bernstein (No charge for residents of Brewster Place)	1/28			\$50
60 Years Later: The JFK Assassination (No charge for residents of Brewster Place)	6/2			\$50
America's Forgotten Wars (No charge for residents of Brewster Place)	3/25			\$50
From Gilded Age to Progressive Era (No charge for residents of McCrite Plaza Topeka)	3/26			\$50



<b>COURSE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>IN-PERSON</b>	<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>FEE</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>				
American Landscape Photography: Images of a Changing Reality	1/28			\$50
The Biblical Art of Marc Chagall	1/30			\$50
We Were Not Monsters	2/27			\$50
Declaration of Independence: 250 Years Old	3/24			\$50
History of the Productiveness of Congress	4/21			\$50
Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light	4/25			\$25
<b>Subtotal of all courses</b> (if you qualify for partner discounts, calculate your subtotal to reflect this)			\$	
<b>C. SPECIAL EVENTS</b>				
Kansas City's Art Museums	4/11			\$60
U.S.A. Track and Field: KU's Connection to Olympic History	4/23			\$50
Tour of Historic Strawberry Hill	5/9			\$125
Escape to Margaritaville at Theatre Lawrence	6/19			\$100
<b>Subtotal of all special events</b>			\$	

**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 27.

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](https://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](https://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.

**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. Discounts are indicated on the registration form next to the course title.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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*  
**LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

**Spring 2025**

Classes & special  
events begin Jan. 27

**Explore the world with the KU  
Osher Institute! Enjoy enrichment  
short courses specially developed  
for folks 50 and better.**

The University of Kansas Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offers exciting and engaging noncredit short courses and events developed for adult learners 50 and older. This spring, courses will be held in person, online, and hybrid.

**For information or to enroll,  
call 785-864-6779 or go online  
at [osher.ku.edu](https://osher.ku.edu).**

