



Oak Ridge Institute of Continued Learning

September 14 - December 4

Online Registration Opens August 4



Fall
2026

ORICL...

"A perfect blend
of those who
love to learn with
those who love
to teach"

Enriching Lives Through Continued Learning



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Front cover photo from winter/spring 2026 from Kate Brewster's creative writing class. Photo provided by Susan Perry. ORICL reserves the right to take photographs in ORICL classes and on field trips/activities. Photographs may be used in ORICL newsletters, brochures, course catalogs, and/or other publicity designed to help the organization meet its mission.

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Curriculum Committee

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Jim Rushton, Jackie Rylander, Susie Stooksbury, Michael Toomey

Schedule Updates

Occasionally, scheduling changes occur after the catalog has been printed. If this happens, the updated information will appear on your printer schedule. Please keep your schedule and calendar with your catalog so you can easily refer to them throughout the term.

Class format information: Unless otherwise noted, each class will meet in person. Classes meet at the Oak Ridge Campus of Roane State Community College, 701 Briarcliff Avenue with the exception of classes that meet at the Oak Ridge Art Center, the Oak Ridge Public Library, and other venues. If a class will be online only via ZOOM or will be a hybrid class (choice between in person or online), it will be indicated beside the class title.

Class disclaimer: The course content provided in these classes is for informational purposes only and may not apply to your individual situation. ORICL and the staff provide no warranty about the content or accuracy of subject matter presented. Information provided is subjective. Keep this in mind when attending classes. Any individual actions taken as a result of a course should be reviewed with competent authority. Please contact the office if you have questions.

Art, Culture, Music & Travel

100 The History of Theater

One might imagine the theater we witness today has always been the same throughout history. However, theater evolved from its roots in ritual and storytelling to the Ancient Greeks to the modern theater in the 21st century. Theater's path to today was filled with real-life drama.



Steven Patrick McBride instructed Introduction to Theatre at Pellissippi State Community College, Roane State Community College, and Ohio University. Steven's acting credits include Sorin in "The Seagull" and "Ensemble in Love and Information", both at Pellissippi State. His directing credits include "My Fair Lady", "The Memory of Water", "A Thousand Cranes", "The Heidi Chronicles", "The Fantasticks", and "Six Characters in Search of an Author". Steven assisted in instructing theatre movement at Robert Brustein's Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University as an intern at the American Repertory Theatre. He has worked on productions with theater luminaries Arthur Kopit, Larry Gelbart, F. Murray Abraham, Cherry Jones, and Christopher Lloyd, among others. He has composed the music for several University of Tennessee productions, where he holds an MFA in performance.

Eight Sessions: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3

101 Exploring the Oak Ridge Art Center Permanent Collection

Did you know there is a world-class collection of art right here in Oak Ridge? You may be surprised to find out what lurks in our vaults! From European masters to 4000-year-old carvings of long-lost cultures to contemporary works by local celebrities, the Art Center's collection spans an incredible range of pedigree and tastes. Learn about the process of acquiring and curating such a treasure, while learning some tips and tricks to look for when building your own collection. We will discuss how factors such as display space limitations, lack of proper framing and condition, or even cultural taboos prevent many works in collections from seeing the light of day – ours included. We will spend some time with a few of our lesser-known works and discuss efforts to bring them out into the public's view. This is a rare opportunity to see behind the scenes of a private art collection.



Rex Redd, Director of the Oak Ridge Art Center

One session: Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., October 23

This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Art Center, 201 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge.

102 Beethoven's Piano Sonatas, Part III

Beethoven was a revolutionary man living in a revolutionary time. He captured his inner voice – demons and all – and the spirit of his time, and in doing so, created a body of music the likes of which no one had ever before imagined. Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas provide a window into his personal musical development and highlight the piano as an evolving instrument. A virtuoso at the keyboard, Beethoven used the piano as his personal musical laboratory, and the piano sonata became a place where he could experiment and develop a view of music as a form of self-expression.



Dan Robbins retired from B&W Y-12 in 2013 after 47 years of company service. At Y-12 he was the director of the analytical laboratories. He is a chemistry graduate of UNC, Chapel Hill and a Princeton PhD. He retired as the founding chairman of the Greenway of Oak Ridge in 2024 after 31 years of service. He was named as one of the ORICL Teachers of the Year in 2025.

Eight sessions: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m., September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4

103 Early Music Experience

This class will be an overview of early Western music of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. We will discuss the development and styles from dance/folk music to sacred/court music of each period. There will be demonstrations of period instruments to include various sizes of recorders, the vielle, harp, hurdy gurdy, etc. An early music ensemble of around eight musicians will perform examples from each period using mixed instrumentation and vocal selections. The class will be provided with copies of vocal works and given the opportunity to join in singing a period song or two.



Robert Burgess, Cindy Sonewald, Gary Dreier, Diane Strahm, Jennifer Ducko, Anne Dorso, Jane Dreier and Melissa McCoy make up this group of musicians. They all have had various careers – Army musician; a background in English; attorney; DOE; nurse; educator; musician and anthropologist/archaeologist. They have joined together to create a musical ensemble to teach others about period instruments and share music.

One Session: Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., October 2

104 The Genius of Michelangelo, Part I

In *The Genius of Michelangelo*, internationally recognized Michelangelo expert and award-winning Professor of Art History William E. Wallace gives you a comprehensive perspective on one of history's greatest artists. Drawing on a vast command of artistic knowledge and period detail, these 36 intellectually rewarding and visually dazzling lectures explore the relationship between truth and legend to reveal a groundbreaking new picture of Michelangelo as an artist, a businessman, an aristocrat, and a genius. Infused with the passion and knowledge of an expert instructor, this course enriches your appreciation of Michelangelo's many accomplishments and enhances your understanding of one of the world's greatest and most familiar artists.

See bio for Dan Robbins above under class #102.

Six sessions: Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m., September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21

105 Fundamentals of Watercolor Painting

Fee: \$25

This class will be an introduction to various traditional watercolor tools and techniques. Class participants will have the opportunity to apply these techniques to their own paintings in each class. Supplies will be provided for each class by the instructor.

Verna Sheldon earned her BA from Boston University, her ME from Salem State College, and MPH from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. After working for many years in New York City and Charlotte, NC in the field of health care, she retired to Florida where she worked at the Leesburg Center for the Arts. At the Center she developed, directed, and taught the summer camp program for all stages of arts development for all grade levels.

This class will be offered as two sessions. Please choose only one session to attend.

Location TBD.

Session A: Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20

Session B: Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., October 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1



106 Art a la Carte Film Series

Art a la Carte is a series of brown-bag luncheon learning programs designed for those interested in the arts – both artists and those who appreciate the arts. Films concentrate on art history, museum collections, interviews with artists and/or demonstrations by various artists, and the creative muse or spirit. The series is held on the fourth Friday of each month at 12 noon. Each session runs for approximately one and a half hours. Some films may be shown in two parts with plenty of overlap to help viewers orient themselves to the storyline, though most will be shown from start to finish. Join us for this fascinating and illuminating series. This class meets monthly.

This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Art Center, 201 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN.

Two sessions: Fridays, 12:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m., September 25; October 23

107 Making Gnomes as Home Décor

Fee: \$60

Making the mythical creature called gnomes. A diminutive spirit in Renaissance magic and alchemy, first introduced by Paracelsus in the 16th century and later adopted by more recent authors including those of modern fantasy literature. The character has taken on many personalities depicted in all parts of the world. The class will create gnomes during the first session, glaze during the second session and pick up finished work on the third.

Bill Capshaw is a member of the advisory board of the Oak Ridge Art Center, where he oversees the planning and operation of the pottery studio and teaches beginning to advanced classes. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1971 and a Master of Fine Arts in 1974. In addition to teaching at the Art Center, he has given workshops at facilities such as the Appalachian Center for Crafts, Arrowmont, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Vanderbilt University. As a professional artist, he competes locally and on a national level, has received many awards, and is represented in many museum collections.



Three sessions: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., November 5, 12, 19

This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Art Center, 201 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN.

108 The Western Film Genre

Few film genres have had such a lasting impact and appeal as the Western, and it's not hard to understand why. The classic Western contains all of the basics of theatrical storytelling: good guys and bad guys, dramatic chase scenes and hairbreadth escapes, showdowns and shootouts, honor and vengeance, and wild, open country that can be breathtaking – or deadly. Our class will look at all these components as well as a familiar list of standard characters that were essential to every good Western. Beginning with the earliest films of the silent movie era, we will continue through the big budget films of Hollywood and the popular shows that once dominated the television screen. We will also look at the “anti-hero” of revisionist westerns that appeared in the mid-to-late twentieth century and revitalized the genre at a time when it seemed to be fading away. Finally, we will look at current forms of westerns that stream into our homes and maintain the popularity of the Western film genre.

Michael Toomey graduated from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga in 1980. He moved to Knoxville in 1981 and completed his doctoral degree in U.S. history at the University of Tennessee in 1991. He is Professor Emeritus at Lincoln Memorial University, where he was a professor of history and assistant dean of the Paul V. Hamilton School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. He worked previously at Knoxville College, the East Tennessee Historical Society, and as the managing editor of The Journal of East Tennessee History. Toomey has taught several history classes for ORICL, including The Lewis & Clark Expedition, The Legacy of George Armstrong Custer, The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Controversial Presidential Elections in U.S. History, and the Scopes Trial.



Three Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., September 14, 21, 28

109 Traveling Through Belgium

The history, art, architecture, cuisine, religiosity, governance, intellectual pursuits, and commerce of Belgium will be explored with photographs of the four main cities of that country: Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, and Antwerp. Those photographs will draw on the museums, churches, train stations, canals, restaurants, opera houses, buildings, city plans, public events, and geography of the region to convey a sense of its culture(s) and civic organization.

Fred O'Hara is a retired technical writer who has written, edited, and published works in medicine, environmental studies, climate, information science, economics, energy, physics, computation, materials, and many other sci-tech fields. His 70-year career in technical communication was a continuous and broad learning experience in an array of disciplines. He taught courses on the communication system of science, which he participated in and observed firsthand, and was elected Fellow of the Society of Technical Communication for being the first known writer to use the internet (then Bitnet) to collaborate internationally in the production of a technical book.



Four Sessions: Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., September 15, 22, 29; October 6

E-mail Addresses

Please make sure the ORICL office has your up-to-date e-mail address. E-mail communication is the primary way information is disseminated to the collective group and individual members.

Computers, Science & Technology

150 Operating Characteristics of a Sub-Core Planetary Reactor

There are several phenomena on the surface of the Earth that indicate the existence of a sub-core planetary reactor. The most obvious indication is the wide variance in the light element isotope distribution (hydrogen through boron), especially helium, in the Earth's crust and from deep wells. This presentation discusses the evidence for the existence, the formation, the operation, and other operational characteristics inherent in a sub-core reactor.

Daniel Hollenbach has a BS, MS and PhD in nuclear engineering. He worked at ORNL as a research scientist for 19 years. At ORNL he was a member of the team that wrote the SCALE computer code package used in this analysis of a sub-core planetary reactor. After retiring from ORNL, he worked at UPF as a senior criticality safety engineer for 13 years. He is now retired and enjoying a life of leisure.

One Session: Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., September 18

151 Digital Security

Stay safe and confident online. This presentation will guide you through the essentials of protecting yourself in today's digital world. You will learn how to create strong passwords, spot scams, browse safely, keep your software updated, and use tools like password managers, passkeys, and more. Designed with seniors and everyday users in mind, the session is jargon-free and packed with real-life examples. Bring your questions – we will make sure you leave with practical tips and resources you can use right away.



Richard Glover has built and secured complex IT environments for the U.S. government and military for over two decades. He is a retired Information Technology Scientist from ManTech International; he is known for his ability to improve processes and automate complex IT tasks using scripting languages. Now he is bringing that expertise straight to the community with his nonprofit, Tech Ease.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., September 14, 21, 28

152 RSCC Nuclear Technology Program

The Roane State Community College Nuclear Technology Program provides a comprehensive, hands-on Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment across the nuclear and radiological workforce. The purpose of this training class is to discuss this program, student opportunities and tour RSCC's Nuclear Operations Laboratory. There will be demonstrations during the tour.

Dr. Joseph Stainback is the director of the Nuclear Technology Program at Roane State Community College and has over 4 decades of operations and academic experience in the nuclear industry including significant component manufacturing, research and security related programs and projects for the Department of Energy, U.S. National Laboratories and other U.S. Government agencies. This includes direct nuclear operations experience in high consequence nuclear facilities such as BWXT Nuclear Operations Division, and the Y-12 National Security Complex Nuclear Engineering Department. Dr. Stainback serves currently as a nuclear subject matter consultant and performs licensed clinical work in the field of credibility technology (polygraph examinations). Dr. Stainback holds a BS in mechanical engineering technology from Old Dominion University, an MS in engineering administration from George Washington University, and a PhD in industrial engineering from the University of Tennessee.

One Session: Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 23

153 The Rare Earth Hypothesis: Are There Any Other Advanced Life Forms in our Galaxy?

The Rare Earth hypothesis was put forward in 2000, by P. D. Ward and D. Brownlee, and claims that simple single-celled life is likely very prevalent in the galaxy and universe, but advanced animals (including intelligent civilizations) life is extremely rare, and the Earth has provided a unique environment for advanced animal life. Although controversial, it has seeped into many physical sciences like geology, paleontology, and astrobiology, and many now believe it is likely true. We will review the reasoning and science behind it and complaints about it.



Charles Kessel retired in 2023 from ORNL Fusion Energy Division and was previously at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. His major training is in nuclear engineering and plasma physics, but he enjoys many physics and scientific topics.

Six Sessions: Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5

154 Groundwater

A discussion-based introduction to groundwater—how it forms, how its age and pathways are traced, and how geology shapes its movement. The course examines the history of groundwater use, its role in human communities, and its ongoing importance as a vital environmental resource.

Gareth Davies is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America. He was nominated and elected based on his decades of work in groundwater, particularly regarding applying tracing techniques. He conducted several decades of work in the United States, including abandoned mines in the Rocky Mountains, in karst and fractured rocks in Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and Maine. He has researched caves, specifically their age and origins.

Four Sessions: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., October 29; November 5, 12, 19

155 Nuclear Energy, Public Trust, and the New “Nuclear Renaissance”



Public perceptions of nuclear energy have varied over the years. In the 1980s, the nation struggled to find solutions for nuclear waste. One early proposal was to place a temporary nuclear waste storage facility in Oak Ridge, while the search went on for a permanent geologic repository. Tennessee and its congressional delegation pushed back, resulting in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments of 1987. Later, the Clean Air Amendments of 1990 placed limits on emissions from coal fired power plants, and began measuring CO₂ emissions, reshaping energy conversations. The late 1990s brought laws addressing nuclear workers' health. This course will explore how these and other laws helped shape the “Nuclear Renaissance” of today, how perceptions of nuclear energy have changed, and the open questions that remain.

Ram Uppuluri is an attorney who grew up in Oak Ridge and attended Princeton University and Vanderbilt School of Law. He worked as a newspaper reporter for The Oak Ridger and The Tennessean newspapers; as a legislative assistant for former U.S. Representative Jim Cooper and former U.S. Senator Al Gore, Jr.; and as a senior advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy during the Clinton Administration. He returned to Oak Ridge in 2023 and is currently practicing law in Clinton, TN.

Four Sessions: Mondays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., September 14, 21, 28, October 5

156 Geology: The Ice Age Mega Floods of the Pacific Northwest

This 3-session class will focus on the following:

1. We will set the stage for understanding the amazing story of Pleistocene mega-floods in the Pacific Northwest. We will briefly review the entire history of Earth's ice ages, then focus on the most recent Ice Age, in which we still live. We'll then review the history of Pleistocene Lake Bonneville (not a glacial lake) and the Great Salt Lake, the largest remnant of Lake Bonneville.
2. We will review the cataclysmic mega-floods of the Northwestern US including those of glacial Lake Missoula (which created the weird and wonderful landscape of the "Channeled Scabland" of eastern Washington) and the Lake Bonneville flood which is considered the single largest flood in the history of the Earth. Evidence of these floods has left an amazing landscape behind. Were humans eyewitnesses to these catastrophic events?!
3. This class will be a tour of the geologic map of the US. With seemingly random splashes of multi-colors, geologic maps can be abstract and have no meaning to the casual observer. In this overview of the geologic map and related subsurface geology of the US, you will gain an appreciation for the geologic diversity of our country and hopefully never look at another geology map the same way again. The hope is to give you the tools to look at a geologic map like a geologist!

Tony McClain grew up in Oak Ridge during the 60s and 70s. After high school, and a brief period pursuing his first love – baseball (freshmen year he played for RSCC) – he discovered a new passion when he took his first geology class at Florida State University. He was "hooked" from day one. He went on to earn BS and MS degrees in geology (BYU in '82 and Texas A&M in '85, respectively) before embarking on a nearly 36-year career in the oil industry from early 1985 to late 2020, returning to Oak Ridge to retire. He feels fortunate to have worked doing something that would have been his hobby, had it not been his career.

Three Sessions: Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., September 16, 23, 30

157 Cyber Fraud and Digital Identity Theft

How many of you think it's safe on the internet?

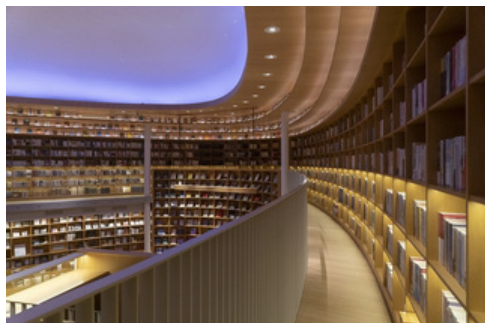
The reality is, fraud and scams are everywhere – and the scammers are getting smarter every day. The goal of this class isn't to make you paranoid, but to help you spot red flags, trust your instincts, and stay one step ahead of the bad guys. By the end of this course, you'll feel more confident using technology safely, be able to recognize common scams and fraud attempts, know how to protect yourself ahead of time, and understand what to do if it ever happens to you. And the best part – no prior technology experience needed!



Jennifer Davis spent 40 years working with computers and information security. From Wal-Mart to the Department of Defense, she worked to protect computers and their users from cyber intrusions. Now that she's retired, she spends time helping neighbors, friends and local non-profits with the challenges of technology.

Four Sessions: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., October 28, November 4, 11, 18

158 Technical Book Group



Would you like to learn more about rapidly changing science and technology? Class members read and discuss books on science and technology topics of interest, biographies of experts in each field, or historical accounts of key discoveries. Join this monthly group, share your perspectives, and discuss that month's book. Recently published works written for lay readers are recommended and selected by the members of the group.

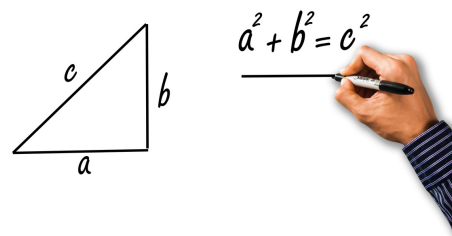
Jim Rushton is class coordinator.

Three sessions: Mondays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:10 p.m., September 28; October 26; November 23

159 Math Can Be Even More Fun

The high school math refresher class continues. If you need to help your grandchildren with their math homework, this might be a good course to take. We will be looking at algebra one and two, geometry, and some fun puzzles. Let's see how much you remember! This class will not be a repeat of the first class in the spring.

Karen Ellis was a mathematical teacher at Oak Ridge High School for 39 years. She taught almost 4000 students at all levels of math courses from algebra one through calculus. Prior to teaching at Oak Ridge High School, she taught at Virginia Tech.



Two Sessions: Mondays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., October 19, 26

160 What is New at Y-12?

This class will be general coverage of what Y-12 has done recently, what is going on, and where we are headed. There will be some coverage of global events that are driving changes to Y-12.

Abe Mathews is the Senior Director of the Analytical Chemistry Organization and Technical Assurance (ACO and TA) for Consolidated Nuclear Security at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN. In this role, he is responsible for all Analytical Chemistry operations, which affect nearly every material that leaves the Y-12 site. Mathews holds a BS in chemical engineering and an MS in materials science/metallurgical engineering from Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.

One Session: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 21

Please be sure and thank the instructors for their time and effort in preparing and presenting ORICL courses. Since they are not compensated monetarily, their “pay” is through your interest and participation

Finance & Business

200 What's Going on In Our Economy?

It's been an interesting ride with all the issues in the U.S. economy since President Trump was inaugurated. Last year we looked at the tariffs and their effects. And with an undeclared war, ICE, an up and down stock market, and a new FED chair, it will be interesting to see what is going on when this class happens before mid-term elections. If you are interested, please join us. We just look at facts, welcome everyone's input, and keep it respectful and non-partisan.



Millicent Taylor is a retired professor of economics from Carson-Newman University. Her PhD is from the University of Tennessee, and she has a BA from Vanderbilt University. She has taught at Colorado State University, and more recently, part-time at the University of Tennessee. She worked for the CIA in Washington as an international economist. She loves the subject and is always ready to talk, discuss, or even argue about economic topics.

Three Sessions: Fridays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., October 16, 23, 30

201 Killer Debt

"Killer Debt" is a continuously updated Power Point presentation on the dangers and consequences of our national debt and economic policies. Several groups in Oak Ridge have seen it – often with time constraints. This is an opportunity to see the entire presentation and have time to understand the consequences for EVERYBODY.

See bio for Millicent Taylor above under class #200.

One Session: Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., September 14

202 Alternative Investments: Beyond Stocks and Bonds

Alternative investments represent a growing and increasingly important part of the investment world. They also play a significant role in institutional finance, where endowments, foundations, pensions, and other large investors often commit substantial capital to alternative strategies. In this class, we will explore major categories of alternatives, including private equity, venture capital, and hedge funds, and discuss how they differ from traditional stocks and bonds and the role they can play in a broader portfolio.



Grayson Niehaus, CFA earned a BS from the University of Tennessee with a dual major of finance and business analytics and a MS from Georgia Institute of Technology in analytics. He is the founder of OneThirty Capital, LLC.

One Session: Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 16

203 Dividends Income Using Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and Stock Investments

The class will start by illustrating and discussing the difference between ETFs and stocks for dividend investing. Examples of ETF and stock dividend results will be shown and the differences in how dividends are managed in both ETFs and dividend paying stocks will be shown and discussed. We will also show how ETF and stock dividends are the same and different.

The class will center on repeatable income using dividends-paying investments to generate income commission-free through long- and short-term investing in ETFs and stocks. The ETFs and stocks presented in the class will include those that return a minimum of 4% up to 10% (or more) in annual dividend returns. Class members can suggest stock/ETFs that they would like to discuss.

The class will include presentations and stock/ETF trading platform called PaperMoney. The PaperMoney platform is a practice platform that cannot make or lose money – but does operate just like the platform it is a part of ThinkorSwim. Paper Money (ThinkorSwim) is available for trial from Charles Schwab. The class will also include information about free training available from major brokerages.

Steven Earhart is a private investor who manages his own portfolio. He belongs to an investing group and has shared his successful strategies with them and now wants to share them with ORICL members. Steven is not a financial advisor or employed with a brokerage or investing company but has learned strategies that have been successful in his own investing. He has a BS in business administration and a BS of engineering technology from ETSU and a MA in business administration from Elon College.

Six Sessions: Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11

Community, Resources & Government

250 Municipal Government 101: Fundamentals of Oak Ridge City Government

Have you ever had an issue that you needed assistance with from city government, but you were uncertain as to which office to call? Have you ever wondered about how local government functions and what services are provided? This course will provide basic information as to how Oak Ridge government is organized and the functions of each of the city's departments. This course will present an opportunity for participants to understand some of the issues our municipal government has authority to resolve and some that it does not. This course is designed to provide general information about Oak Ridge City Government. Participants that need assistance with issues will be provided with contact information for the appropriate city department that deals with that issue.

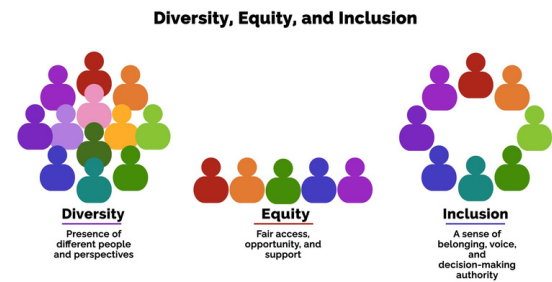
Beth Hickman has served as the City Clerk for the City of Oak Ridge since February 2016. She previously served as faculty assistant at Vanderbilt University and as a field representative for former Congressman Lincoln Davis. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from Vanderbilt University and a master's in public administration from the University of Tennessee. She currently serves as President of the Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians and is a member of the Emory Valley Center Foundation Board and Altrusa International of Oak Ridge. She obtained her municipal clerk certification from the State of Tennessee in 2017, and a Master Municipal Clerk designation through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 2026.



Six Sessions: Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22

251 UT's DEI Workshops for Faculty Search Committees

For a decade University of Tennessee used to provide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workshops for members of committees searching for new faculty members. These workshops have now been discontinued due to mandates from the current federal government against DEI instruction. Together with a dedicated group of UT faculty, Soren Sorensen was responsible for developing and leading the workshops. In this short ORICL course he will explain the reasons for providing DEI information to search committees and show numerous examples of the content of the workshops. These examples are nearly all based on academic, published and peer-reviewed studies on human behavior in evaluating and interacting with other humans. So, please sign up for this ORICL course so you can judge for yourself if DEI information is valuable and important or if it is something that should be prohibited.



Soren Sorensen was a professor in nuclear physics at UT for nearly four decades with 12 years as department head and is now a Chancellor's Professor Emeritus. He was also a research associate in the Physics Division at ORNL for 38 years. His main research focus has been experimental studies of hot and dense nuclear matter, and during the last 8 years of his tenure at UT he was also responsible for the STRIDE program that will be described in these ORICL lectures.

Two Sessions: Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., October 28; November 4

252 ETHRA and All 44 Programs!

This class will be a brief overview of what the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) does in our community. It will include the history of the agency, the services offered, it's 44 programs and more.

Cynthia Plemens earned an associate degree in business management from Roane State Community College and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies from Tennessee Technological University. She is also a certified grant writer with the State of Tennessee. She is working towards a master's degree in industrial psychology.

One Session: Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 1

253 CommUnity Learning Systems Integration

How can we as Oak Ridgers build an even stronger learning community, consistent with our 50th anniversary theme, "Born of War, Living for Peace, Growing through Science"?

Each session will have a primary focus and will include an introduction, small group interaction, plus time for sharing and aggregating insights.

Session 1: What do class participants most need and want to learn? What obstacles are in their way?

Session 2: What learning support already exists (family, neighborhoods, organizations, institutions)? What is missing?

Session 3: What external resources, associations and models could strengthen our community learning capacity?

Session 4: Lessons learned, personal next steps, and consideration of an ongoing CommUnity Learning Collaborative

David Sperry chose to move to Oak Ridge in 1996 for the community. Prior to serving 11 years as a direct support professional with Emory Valley Center, he was a computer-aided process planning trainer for Hughes Aircraft Company. David also served as community development coordinator for the Baha'is of the United States and 4 ½ years at the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa, Israel. There he became more familiar with learning and community development processes which inspired the design of this class.

Four Sessions: Thursdays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., October 29; November 5, 12, 19

254 “Bright Lights, Big Ideas: The ORFACE Story”

What exactly is ORFACE – and how has it quietly helped shape the future of Oak Ridge? From community investments to the upcoming Light Up Oak Ridge winter festival, this lively class explores the ideas, partnerships, and people behind one of the city’s most forward-thinking organizations. Come discover how big visions become real projects – and how a brighter Oak Ridge gets built.

Jake Morrill is a family business advisor with the Family Business Consulting Group, the father of two recent Oak Ridge High School graduates, and a former minister of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. He is also a board member of ORFACE.

One Session: Monday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., November 16

History

300 Presidents at War

Presidents at War will be a review of U.S. presidents serving as Commander in Chief during periods of conflict. We will look at the constitution as we walk through the history of managing conflict in a democratic society.

Mike Thornton is a retired U.S. Army officer and helicopter pilot. His early assignments were as an AeroScout pilot on the east German and Czechoslovakian border where he trained with other NATO militaries to defend Europe during the Cold War. He served six years in Europe and has conducted research around the world to help understand the American experience.

Mike is an adjunct professor of U.S. history at Roane State Community College. He earned a master’s degree from Jacksonville State University and has recently completed an intensive post graduate study of U.S. history at Ashland University.

One Session: Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., September 29



301 Holiday Haunts: Legends and Lore of Yuletide Monsters

For some, the spooky season stretches far beyond Halloween. Looking to historic records and tales of “The Old Ways” reveals a stunning reversal in how we once celebrated autumn, winter, and the creatures of the seasons. This course presented by Emily Curtis, will explore long ago monsters and mid-winter lore of the Icelandic Yule Cart, the Alpine Krampus, La Befana of Italy, the German Perchten, and many of their mischievous friends.

Emily Curtis is the Outreach Specialist at Oak Ridge Public Library. As a member of the Community Services Department, she coordinates the volunteer program, runs the library book club, hosts educational programming, and organizes the annual Adult Summer Reading Program. Emily has a background in Folklore Studies with a research scope of calendar customs, folk belief, and foodways. Her previous library lectures include “Once Upon a Time: The Study of Folklore & Fairytales” and “Signs of Spring: Symbols and Vernal Traditions Around the World.”

Three Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., November 9, 16, 23

302 History Rhymes: Lessons From America's Most Divided Era (1815-1880)

Mark Twain famously observed that “history does not repeat itself, but it rhymes,” perhaps pushing back against George Santayana’s warning that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. This course examines the often-misunderstood U.S. era of 1815 –1880, testing the related assumptions that history repeats itself and that hindsight is clear. Like today, the period began with a contentious war that unleashed rapid economic and technological change, producing shocks that reshaped nearly every aspect of American life. The course rests on two core ideas: first, that our focus on Civil War and Reconstruction has obscured how Americans adapted to these earlier transformations; and second, that those adaptations may offer perspective—and even reassurance—as we confront similar “rhymes” in our own time.

Mark Banker retired from Webb School in Knoxville, TN. He was a teacher of Advance Placement U.S. History, Tennessee History, and Southern Appalachia history. He has taught at both the high school and college levels. Mark has received several awards and has published Appalachians All: East Tennesseans and the Elusive History of an American Region (University of Tennessee Press, 2010) and many articles.

Seven Sessions: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19

303 The Cold War



During this class we will discuss the bi-polar world and our long conflict with the Soviet Union. We'll explore how we managed to prevent global destruction and the prospects for peace in the post-Cold War world.

See bio for Mike Thornton on page 15 under class #300.

One Session: Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 a.m., October 27

304 ORICL Tour of the Oak Ridge History Museum

Fee: \$10

ORICL participants will meet at the Oak Ridge History Museum. Don Hunnicutt and Jake Alexander will show an eight-minute video providing an overview of the unique history of Oak Ridge during the Manhattan Project (1942-1945). Groups of five will be given short, guided tours of the museum by ORHPA tour guides. After that, students may ask questions and roam around the museum on their own.

Since 2024, Jake Alexander has served as a tour guide at the Oak Ridge History Museum. This involvement has allowed him to learn about many details of the World War II Manhattan Project activities. He is retired from 38 years of technical and management support to the U.S. Departments of Energy, Defense, Transportation, and Health and Human Services; and numerous state agencies and commercial entities. During his active years he was certified as a professional engineer (PE), a hazardous materials manager (CHMM), and an NQA-1/ISO 9001 quality assurance auditor. A graduate of the University of Tennessee engineering school, he earned master's degrees in environmental engineering and public administration at New York University and completed extensive study of radiation health physics at the University of Tennessee's liberal arts graduate school.

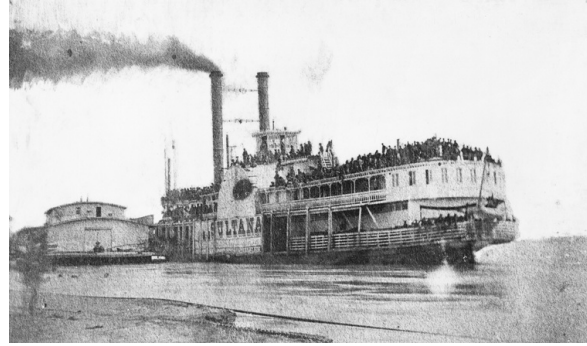
Don Hunnicutt is a native Oak Ridger born in 1944. His mother, Beatrice Hunnicutt was a stay-at-home mother and his father, Edwin Hunnicutt, was in the Guard department at Y-12. Don graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1962 and then attended Tennessee Tech University and Fulton Vocational School. In 1968 he began a 34-year career at Y-12, retiring in 2005. Don is a member of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association. He serves on the board and volunteers at the Oak Ridge History Museum as a docent and city tour guide.

This class will take place at the Oak Ridge History Museum, 102 Robertsville Road, Oak Ridge. The class fee will be \$8

One Session: Thursday, 1:00 p.m., November 12

305 Loss of Steamboat “Sultana”, April 27, 1865: America’s Worst Maritime Disaster

The steamboat “Sultana” exploded in the middle of the Mississippi River at 2:00 a.m., April 27, 1865. The boat was heavily overloaded with almost 2,100 former Union POWs, men who were on their way home after surviving the war and Confederate prisons. The death toll was nearly 1200. A tragic event almost lost to history; this is their story. The soldiers came from mainly mid-western states, such as Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, but surprisingly about 400 came from Tennessee. Most of the Tennessee soldiers were from Knox County and the surrounding area, having served in the U.S. Third Tennessee Cavalry.



Bio for Norman C. Shaw on page 19 under class #312.

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., October 6, 13, 20

306 Catchable but not Fetchable

This lecture is about the life and times of Mahala Mullins (1824-1898), arguably the most famous Melungeon woman in east Tennessee history. Mahala was a remarkable woman who found a creative way to support her family despite a disability and during a very difficult time for mixed-race people in our nation’s history.

Kate Brewster is a retired library director based in Knoxville, Tennessee, with more than three decades of experience in research, archival management, and public education. She spent several years writing for newspapers and magazines and has written several books and stage plays. Kate loves teaching genealogy, history, and writing workshops and classes where she brings history and writing to life for fellow lifelong learners.

One Session: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., September 22

307 Oak Ridge’s Future, The Manhattan Project 2

This class will be a roughly 45 - minute presentation with embedded videos outlining the new nuclear industry initiatives known as Manhattan Project 2.0 and where they are located. Details of activities planned for Oak Ridge in the coming years will be shared as known at present. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

Ray Smith has been the Oak Ridge City Historian since 2015; Tennessee historical commissioner for east Tennessee since 2017; cohost for Hidden History: Stories of the Secret City; newspaper columnist for The Oak Ridger and Morgan County Today’s Historically Speaking weekly column. He has been a documentary film producer; photographer; authored “Critical Connections,” and has been an ORICL instructor for several years.

One Session: Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 9

308 The Mysterious Crox House on the Corner

This lecture is about the Civil War love story behind an old house made of slave brick that stands on the corner of Hotchkiss Valley Road and Huff’s Ferry Road in Loudon County.

See bio for Kate Brewster above under class #306.

One Session: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., September 29

309 Women's Suffrage Museum: Bringing History to Life



This class will focus on the overlooked history of women seeking democracy. It will also focus on how to make sure that women seeking democracy is never overlooked again.

Mary Kellogg-Joslyn, alongside her husband John Joslyn, carved a remarkable path in television and entertainment industries. Their most notable achievement is the co-founding of the highly successful Titanic Museum Attractions in Branson, Missouri and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Kellogg-Joslyn's impressive career spans decades at CBS Television Stations and The Walt Disney Company.

Wanda Sobieski earned a BA from Wichita State University; MA from the University of Tennessee and Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee College of Law. She has worked tirelessly in the Knoxville community and received several awards from area groups. She is a member of the American, Tennessee and Knoxville Bar Associations.

One Session: Monday, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., October 5

310 A New Look at "The Ol' Ball Game"

In his intriguing book, *Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game*, John Sexton describes events in baseball that seem to defy reduction to words or logic as "ineffable." Sexton doesn't claim that baseball is a spiritual activity, but illustrates how some of us, but not all, may experience moments in baseball as having a spiritual quality or meaning.



This class is an opportunity to reflect on memorable personalities and moments in the game, including:

- George Herman "Babe" Ruth, whose career began as a Boston Red Sox pitcher during WWI and the pandemic of 1918;
- Ruth's infamous trade to the New York Yankees the same year, which inflamed a bitter Yankees-Red Sox rivalry enshrined by James Taylor in his ballad, *Angels of Fenway*, in 2015;
- The formation of the Negro National League in 1920 and the rising prominence of Black players like Jackie Robinson who desegregated baseball when he played for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947.

Reading Sexton's book is not required but encouraged. Why not come on out? "Play ball" and see what happens.

Bob Cantrell is a native Oak Ridger, a former pastor of First United Methodist Church who is now retired, and also a baseball fan. He has a BA in English from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., September 15, 22, 29

311 The Short Life and Tragic Death of Ray Brewster

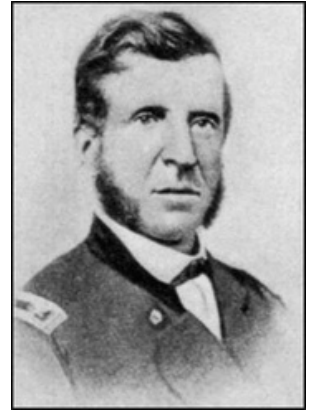
Ray Brewster and his brothers, Willie G. and Bud, were locally famous "Hillbilly Musicians" and regulars on Cas Walker's Knoxville radio shows until one fateful night when Ray found himself on the wrong side of the law and lost his life in the process.

See bio for Kate Brewster on page 17 under class #306.

One Session: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 6

312 Union General Joseph A. Cooper: Tennessee's Forgotten Civil War Warrior

This is the little-known story of the military career of General Joseph A. Cooper during the American Civil War. He was one of the few men to rise from the rank of private to general. He grew up in Campbell County, TN. He crossed the Appalachian Mountains with a group of other Unionists to join the Federal army in Kentucky. He later became colonel of the 6th Tennessee Infantry Regiment and then general of a division under General Sherman during his campaign to take Atlanta. Cooper returned to Tennessee to fight the Battle of Nashville in December 1864.



After the war, Cooper completed his service by commanding the Tennessee State Guard after appointment by Governor William Brownlow. He is buried in Knoxville's National Cemetery.

Norman Shaw graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1972 with a degree in political science and history. The following year he graduated with a degree in public administration, also from the University of Tennessee. In 1979 he graduated from the Memphis State School of Law. He was the founder of the Civil War Roundtable in 1983 and served three terms as president of the group.

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., September 15, 22, 29

313 Number 93

Isaac Costner was a big fish in a small pond when he was brokering moonshine in east Tennessee during the depression. Everything went decidedly south when he hooked up with a gang from the Chicago area, and he found himself in Alcatraz with members of the very gang he turned state's evidence on.

See bio for Kate Brewster on page 17 under class #306.

One Session: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 13

314 The Rise of NASCAR

This class offers an overview of Southern stock car racing, based on my book *NASCAR's Wild Years*. It explores the people, teams, and developments that helped shape the sport.



Alex Gabbard went off to college to study mechanical engineering and was drafted into the Vietnam conflict. After returning to college, he studied atomic physics and had a career doing research in civilian applications of energy at ORNL. He is now retired and enjoys restoring old cars and writing. He has written many books about his interests and has published 37 books.

One Session: Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 5

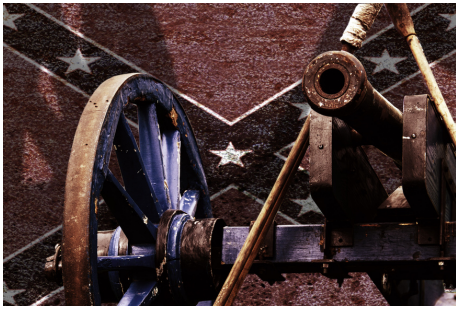
315 A "Spirited" History

Thunder Road tells the story of Appalachian moonshining and its lasting impact. Rooted in the mountains, it traces how this tradition influenced American history, shaping laws and tax policies over time. From small, hidden stills to the transport routes that carried the product, its legacy continues to be felt in more subtle ways today.

See Bio for Alex Gabbard above under class #314.

One Session: Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 12

316 Could the Confederacy Have Won the Civil War?



Useless speculation? An unanswerable query? Only a viable discussion in a tavern? Maybe. Probably. But the “what if” scenarios are plausible both on and off the battlefield. They’re also profoundly interesting especially if students of the period have challenged themselves with the same thought...and, let’s face it, you probably have. Bring your own scenarios with you as we have a spirited discussion on a challenging question.

Tim Vane served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his time on active duty, he participated in Operation Just Cause (Panama), the First Gulf War and Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti). He earned his BA from La Salle University and MA from California State University. His military education includes the Field Artillery Basic and Cannon Courses, the Infantry Officers Advanced Course, the Defense Information School and the Command and General Staff School. Tim Vane retired from ORNL in 2014, he now owns his own consulting company and is co-owner of How2LeadUS which teaches leadership development to businesses and organizations. The company uses Civil War battlefields as the classroom and often uses re-enactors and equipment as part of the instruction.

One Session: Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., December 1

317 Blackbeard

North Carolina’s most infamous pirate carved a legacy of fear across the seas in the early 1700s. This survey explores the era that shaped his daring exploits and the legend he left behind.

See Bio for Alex Gabbard on page 19 under class #314.

One Session: Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 19



318 Information Nation: 250 Years of American Innovation in Information Technology

Fee: \$5



Based on the Innovators’ Gallery special exhibit, “Information Nation,” at the American Museum of Science and Energy, this course will examine the amazing history of American innovations in information technology. From the telegraph, telephone and television, to the typewriter and the computer, America has led the world to find new and better ways to create, disseminate, and preserve information. This course will take an interactive look at those innovations in the context of this special semi-quincentennial exhibit at AMSE.

Alan Lowe obtained his BA and MA in history from the University of Kentucky. He began his career at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library as an archivist. He has worked for the Office of Presidential Libraries at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. He served as the Executive Director of the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee from 2003 to 2009. From 2009-16, Lowe served as founding Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. In 2016, Lowe was appointed as Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, a position he held until 2019 when he returned to Tennessee and became the Director of the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge.

This class will take place at the American Museum of Science and Energy, 115 Main St E, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Two Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., October 26; November 2

319 American Wars That Influenced Natives



The United States has been involved in many wars since its founding. A number of those conflicts took place on lands long inhabited by Indigenous peoples, whose ancestors had lived across North and South America for thousands of years. Their societies, like all others, faced challenges—natural disasters such as droughts and storms, as well as internal conflicts and disagreements. At times, both environmental hardships and human violence led to loss and disruption.

In some cases, wars involving the United States were fought on territory that was already occupied well before the nation came into existence. When conflict unfolds close to home, it often draws people in, whether they seek it or not.

Wes Hibbert grew up in Pennsylvania's southeast corner Bucks County. After high school he attended Kansas Wesleyan University and earned a BA and then went to Aquinas College for graduate work. He didn't think his education was limited in any way until he realized he knew very little about who originally inhabited North and South America, what they accomplished, how they managed to survive and what family life was like prior to 1492 and even later. Wes has a den full of books, videos, and souvenirs that keeps his mind centered on the history of Indigenous peoples.

Five Sessions: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11

320 Early Years in the Atomic City

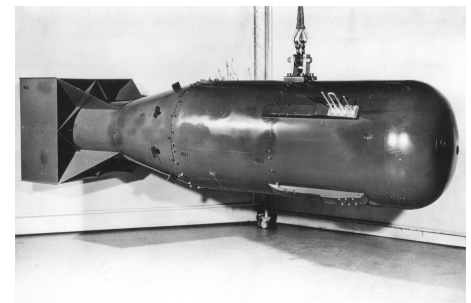
This class will be a presentation of the early years of the city of Oak Ridge during the Manhattan Project, as seen through the lens of Ed Westcott. Ed was the official photographer during the Manhattan Project. His photos are displayed throughout the city of Oak Ridge.

See bio for Don Hunnicutt on page 16 under class #304.

Three Sessions: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., September 10, 17, 24

321 Events Leading to the Invention of the WWII Atomic Bombs

This two-part class will present a timeline of the important scientific discoveries, engineering breakthroughs, and incredible design and construction accomplishments that led to the invention and deployment of the prototype "gadget" device tested at the Trinity Site in July 1945; and the two atomic bombs, the "Little Boy" and the "Fat Man" the United States Army Air Force dropped on Japan in August 1945. These weapons hastened the end of the World War II and saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of U.S. service men and Japanese civilians. The presentation will include an overview of how the uranium-235 and plutonium-239 critical masses used in the bombs were made, and the basic design features of each of the weapons.



See bio for Jake Alexander on page 16 under class #304.

Four Sessions: Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., October 15, 22, 29; November 5

322 Tri-County African American Cultural Museum

Learn about the history of the African Americans in the Tri County Area. Focus on the Road to Freedom: Past, Present, and Future. This class will provide information regarding slaves who were brought to the Tri County area, information regarding lynching, education, churches, military, and much more. The class will also showcase the families' history, their means of survival, and the many success stories of the families and individuals who lived within the area. The class will show information on the museum being a repository and a resource center for archival information on African American history.

Julia Hopper Daniel carries forward a legacy rooted in the Tennessee soil her family has tended for generations. Living on the Roane County farm where her ancestor was once enslaved, she honors that history by preserving both the land and the stories it holds. Today, eight members of her family share the property, a living testament to resilience and continuity.

Daniel's commitment to her heritage is reflected in her leadership as president of the Mayme Carmichael School Organization Inc., where she helped transform the former one-room "colored" schoolhouse in Oliver Springs into Carmichael Park, now a recognized historical landmark. Daniel has also contributed to local preservation efforts through the Oliver Springs Historical Society, the October Sky Festival, and the annual "Heritage at the Depot" celebration. Her primary focus has been establishing the Tri-County African American Cultural Museum in the Tri-County Area, which represents Anderson, Morgan, and Roane Counties.

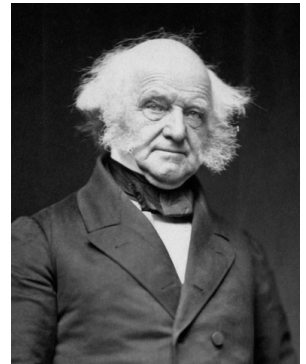
This class will meet at the Tri-County African American Cultural Museum, 1069 East Tri-County Blvd, Oliver Springs, TN

One Session: Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., October 8

323 Presidents of the United States

This is a continuation of the series that Dave Holman began about three years ago. He will begin the series with Martin Van Buren, founder of the Democratic Party. Each of the four sessions will cover two to four presidents. We will discuss the fascinating lives and controversial issues of each president. You will find that presidents you probably never heard of are far more interesting than you would have believed.

A native of California, David Holman earned his BA in History from Cal State East Bay and has taught middle school and high school for 25 years. David has retired from education more than once but is again working and is also teaching for ORICL again.



Four Sessions: Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., September 30; October 7, 14, 21

324 Yet Even More Stories from the Secret City (Online - ZOOM)

This class involves a discussion of Oak Ridge history in a question-and-answer format using visual images of historic photographs and documentary films. Emphasis will be placed on the early history of Oak Ridge but will include more recent history. We will discuss the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and possible future science and heritage tourism efforts. Guest speakers will present information about their areas of expertise.

See bio for Ray Smith on page 17 under class #307.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 26; November 2, 9

325 The Other “Mrs. Poe”

In addition to being a writer, poet, editor, and critic, Edgar Allan Poe was also quite the ladies’ man. In this lecture, I’ll bring Poe and his world to life, dishing up secrets and telling tales about one of the most recognized names in American literature.

See bio for Kate Brewster on page 17 under class #306.

One Session: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., October 20

326 Three Slices of England’s Past

To journey across England is to stroll through its rich and often peculiar past. This is an invitation to join us as we walk down three separate historical paths, observe the human stories associated with them, and reflect on what they just might suggest about our own time.

- The Peculiar English Custom of Wife Selling (think: *lex non scripta*)
- How the Gregarious Pasqua Rosee Jump Started Modern Civilization (think: *caffeine*)
- A Hymn to the Saints of Eyam Village (think: the great dying of 1665)



Fred Bailey brings to the ORICL program more than 40 years’ experience as an American history professor who has traveled extensively across the United States, Europe, and Asia researching and delivering professional papers. His primary academic interest is the history of American thought and among his hobbies is exploring different epochs of British history.

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., October 6, 13, 20

Philosophy & Religion

350 The Prophetic Voice

This course considers interpretations and cultural impact of the biblical prophets. We will focus on the Books of the Prophets included in the Hebrew Bible. These texts, shared by Judaism and Christianity, are among the most influential religious books in western society.

Learn about their authorship, history, and the varied meanings Christians and Jews have found in them over time. How have different translations affected their interpretation? How are they viewed in the modern world within different denominations of Christianity and different branches of Judaism? How do the prophets in these books compare to individuals identified as prophets elsewhere in the Bible, like Moses and Abraham? What did it mean to be a prophet in biblical times? What does it mean now? Is the age of prophecy over? Come experience the poetry and power of the prophetic voice. No Hebrew required.

Dale Rosenberg loves to teach and learn at ORICL, and she has been doing both since moving to Oak Ridge in 2024. She is a freelance Jewish educator, with master’s degrees in Jewish studies and Jewish education. Dale teaches at synagogues, colleges, community centers, and retreat centers.

Five Sessions: Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15

351 Zionisms: It's Not All One Thing!

Before the establishment of the State of Israel and in Israel's early years, the movement for a Jewish state in the Holy Land would be more accurately described as "Zionisms." Although all Zionists were looking to establish safety in a Jewish homeland, their ideas of what they meant by the term Zionism were varied. These early Jewish thinkers had many different approaches to the concept and their own philosophies, politics, lifestyles, and theological views influenced by their "brand" of Zionism.

There is still much diversity in Israeli and Diaspora society today in views of what Zionism means, can mean, and should mean. In this brief course we will look at a variety of Zionisms, including Political Zionism, Labor Zionism, Revisionist Zionism, Diaspora Zionism, Religious Zionism, and Christian Zionism. We will read quotes from major thinkers in each of these types of Zionism and then see which one's participants identify with most closely. We will discuss how contemporary Americans – Jewish and non-Jewish – can make space for variety of Zionisms.

See bio for Dale Rosenberg on page 23 under class #350.

One session: Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., October 22

352 The Arab/Israeli Conflict Through Primary Documents

This course examines contemporaneous documents to illuminate both Zionism and Arab Nationalism. Both modern nationalist movements have origins in late 19th/early 20th century, so that's where we will start. We will move forward through the founding of the State of Israel and the initial conflicts between Israel and its Arab neighbors as well as what later became the conflict between Israel and Palestinians.

We will look at 19th, 20th, and 21st century documents that were important to the development of both the Jewish and Palestinian nationalist aspirations. We will explore what they meant to people at the time and how they are viewed now by the people involved in the conflict, as well as others throughout the world. We will consider different visions of both Arab nationalism and Zionism. We will explore how these documents came to be and how they were received by three different groups: Jewish/Israeli, Palestinian Arabs, Arabs from other countries. All documents will be available in English.

See bio for Dale Rosenberg on page 23 under class #350.

Five Sessions: Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., October 29; November 5, 12, 19; December 3

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353 Christian Nationalism, an Oxymoron

This study contends that “Christian Nationalism” is an oxymoron, two words that combined form a contradiction. Christianity is a global religion that belongs to no specific nation. The United States Constitution rejects any law that establishes a national religion, Christian or otherwise.

Public media conversation has increasingly revolved around the growing political power of an American movement called “Christian Nationalism” and/or “White Christian Nationalism.” Christian Nationalism is not a new religion, denomination, or church in America; nor does it reflect new ideas about the relationship of Christianity and U.S. government. However, the movement has demonstrated a major surge in political power that has renewed debate about the Constitutional First Amendment, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” Christian Nationalists are united primarily on one belief, that the U.S. is a “Christian nation,” a viewpoint that constitutional scholar Andrew Seidel calls *The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism Is Un-American* (2019).

Larry Dipboye is a graduate of Baylor University and holds three seminary degrees, including the Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY. As a pastor in Louisville from 1974-1988, he served as an adjunct professor of theology at Southern Baptist Seminary. Dipboye has served on the ORAU /ORNL Oak Ridge Site-Wide Institutional Review Board for human subject research since 1995. Larry retired from Grace Covenant Church in 2019.

Five Sessions: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15

Health, Wellness & Medicine

400 Preparing Your Medical History, First Aid Kit and “Got to Go Pack”

It is important to prepare your personal medical history, first aid kit, and “to go pack” in the event of a storm, tornado, fire or accident. Being prepared to help yourself and others is important for survival! This class will help you get organized and plan in order to evacuate or shelter in place until help comes. We will cover the updated recommendations.

Dr. Elaine Bunick has been an MD for 49 years, 44 years in private practice in endocrinology in Oak Ridge. She has done many medical service missions in the U.S. and internationally: Ghana, Haiti and Mexico. She started the public diabetes education program in Oak Ridge. Dr. Bunick has been very active in Anderson County and Oak Ridge as both a practicing doctor and as a volunteer doctor. She has been awarded the Oak Ridge Rotary Club’s Bill Sergeant Vocational Service Award and the Rotary District 6780 Rotarian of the Year Award. Bunick received the special Rotary International Service Above Self Award in 2021 for a lifetime of service in the U.S. and internationally.



Two Sessions: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., November 11, 18

401 History of Substance Abuse

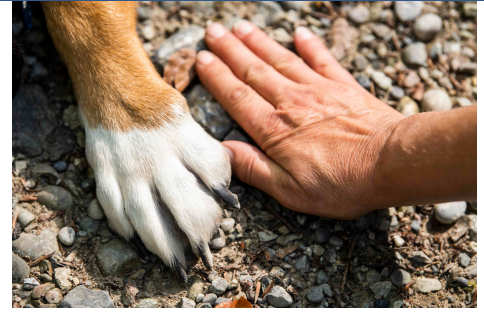
The Persians, Babylonians, Greeks, early Christians, indigenous cultures of the Americas and maybe early man did it. But what did they do? Modern day man was not the first to experiment with mind altering substances. What has changed?

Norman Barrett worked as a hospital pharmacist in Orlando, FL from 1969 to 1997. The Smoky Mountains lured him away with the promise of new adventures and 800 miles of trails to explore while continuing his career at Kroger until retiring in 2011. Travel, writing, photography and writing a new book has kept him busy.

Four Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., September 28; October 5, 12, 19

402 Benefits of Human Animal Bond: An Overview of HABIT

The human-animal bond has its basis in biology, and that biology can impact many areas of human cognitive and emotional development. Animal-assisted interactions can be used to easily relieve emotional pain that occurs in communities from depression, loneliness, and boredom. Animal-assisted activities improve the lives of people who enjoy the human-animal bond from elementary school-aged students to those in the last stages of life, either in memory care or hospice. Learn how HABIT offers animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy to enhance quality of life and learning at all stages of human experience.



Ruth Sapp is the Program Coordinator for Human Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT), a volunteer, community-based outreach program of The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Her degree is organizational management with 25 years' experience working with volunteers. She has been with HABIT since 2008 and worked with HABIT dogs Sugar and Ballou, Pembroke Welsh corgis. In her role as program coordinator, she is continually learning how animal-assisted activities improve quality of life for those who receive visits from medically and behaviorally screened pets provided by HABIT, as well as how those pets' lives are enhanced by working with their handlers.

One Session: Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., November 3

403 Aging in Place with Confidence and Connection

Session 1: A panel of professional trusted advisors will answer questions posed by our instructor/moderator, pertinent to our topic and theme of Aging in Place with Confidence and Connection.

Session 2: Participants attending session #1 will be asked to email their questions pertaining to our topic and theme to the instructor/moderator following our first session for panel members to address during session 2.

Elaine Wilson has lived in Oak Ridge since 2014. She received her MSSW in social work from the University of Tennessee in 2009 and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Elaine is Special Projects Coordinator at Care Around the Block (CAB), where she participates in program development, project management, coaching and education. Before Elaine began her career in social services and home care, she completed a 20-year career in audiology. After graduating from University of Tennessee, she worked as Director of Social Services in a nursing center in Massachusetts for 5 years before returning to east Tennessee.

Angie Jones, COTA/L is the Client Services Coordinator at Care Around the Block (CAB). She is originally from Coleshill, United Kingdom, but has lived in Knoxville for the past 15 years. She has a degree as an Occupational Therapy Assistant and is certified in home safety and human resources. Angie plays a key role in training CAB staff, particularly in dementia care and best practices, helping to elevate the quality of care across the organization. She is dedicated to improving the lives of others and empowering both clients and care teams to achieve meaningful, lasting outcomes.

Two Sessions: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., November 10, 17

At the time of publication all class information is current and correct. Information will be kept up to date in the online class listing at www.roanestate.edu/oricl and at the posted calendar on the website. Please monitor your email for changes in class schedule

404 Medicare 101

This class will simplify the Medicare enrollment process, breakdown coverage options, (parts A, B, C, & D), and explain the differences between Original Medicare, Medicare Supplements, and Medicare Advantage. This class will divide Medicare into bite size pieces through presentations to help make it easier to understand.

Nikki Rabbers is a Licensed Medicare Agent with Senior Financial Group in Knoxville. In 2018, she pursued her insurance license with the goal of helping seniors find the right coverage. She is also a registered Social Security Analyst. Being a licensed Medicare Agent and a Social Security Analyst allows her to better help clients understand their benefits and explore strategies to maximize their retirement income based on their personal circumstances.

Six Sessions: Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., October 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17

405 Narrative Medicine

Narrative medicine is a blend of the medical story and the illness story. The medical story is the scientific basis of disease. It mirrors the scientific method, beginning with a hypothesis and by an exercise of logic and reason, drawing a conclusion. The illness story is a person's perspective of their illness. This perspective is shaped by many things: geography, education, family dynamics, economics, culture, religion and more. The illness story doesn't operate by logic or reason. It is shaped by all the things that make us who we are. It seeks an explanation. The illness story and the medical story should exist in equilibrium, neither competing nor conflicting with the other. This talk will offer some reasons about how these two stories have become unbalanced. It will present examples of Narrative Medicine as a philosophy of care, a clinical skill, and an educational tool that can help to maintain equanimity in the art and science of clinical practice.



Dr. Ron Lands is a retired hematologist with the entirety of his medical training, medical school, residency and hematology oncology fellowship at the University of Tennessee Medical School Memphis. He also has an MFA from Queen's University in North Carolina. He has practiced in a variety of venues – an inner-city hospital, the military, private practice and academics. Dr. Lands practiced medicine where he grew up, treating lifelong friends, a few relatives and an occasional stranger. Practicing in Appalachia is where he recognized the importance of listening to the patient's illness story. He has published short stories, poems and essays in literary and medical journals about these experiences.

One Session: Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., September 17

THANKS!

Eagle-eyed editors of the preprinted catalog are Nancy Basford, Becky Rushton, Marti Salk, Vickie Reddick, Sue Lasky. Graphics in this issue were obtained from *pixabay* and the internet. Susan Perry and Sydney Moon typed in all the data and formatted, edited, and designed the catalog. Without volunteers organized by Nancy Basford, this catalog would not reach your mailbox.

406 Aging in Place: Guidelines for Bath and Kitchen

As we age and prefer to stay in our homes, there are several adaptations that can be made to make our master bath and kitchen areas safer. This class will identify those recommendations and show many examples on how to adapt your home to allow you to safely age in place.

Judy Gooch received her undergraduate degree from Carson Newman University and her master's degree in furnishings in interiors from the University of Georgia. From 1981 to 1993 she served as an adjunct professor teaching interior design courses at Carson Newman. Since 1993, Judy has been a free-lance interior designer serving residential clients in east Tennessee. She has received two national "Designer of the Year" first place awards, and two first runner-up awards for projects submitted to the Interior Design Society professional organization. Judy has served on the board of directors for Girls, Inc., the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce Housing committee, the Oak Ridge Public School Education Foundation Board, and the Roane State Community College Foundation Board. Judy is the past President of Altrusa of Oak Ridge, and its Foundation. She is also the immediate past president of the Knoxville Chapter of the Interior Design Society and currently serves on the National Interior Design Society Board of Directors.

One Session: Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., September 16

Literature & Film Studies

450 Anatomy of Creative Writing Collections

We will examine how to compile creative work via themes for chapbooks and full-length collections. Though emphasis will be on poetry collections, the advice applies to other genres. The four craft lectures will invite open discussion and include some marketing prospects for your work.

John C. Mannone, Poet Laureate for the City of Oak Ridge (2026-2028), has poems in Artemis, Critical Humanities, Windhover, and others. He won numerous awards in poetry and creative nonfiction, as well as a Jean Ritchie Fellowship (2017) in Appalachian literature. Among his six chapbooks and five full-length collections, Sacred Flute (Iris Press, 2024), was a finalist for the 2025 Tennessee Book Award. He is a retired professor of physics.



Four Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., October 5, 12, 19, 26

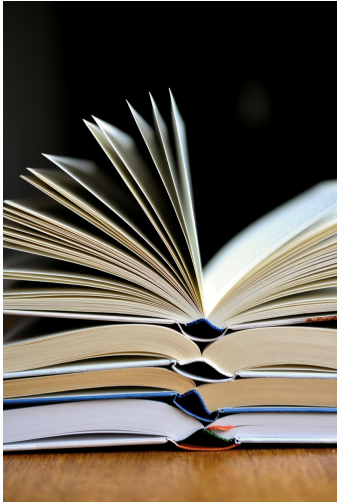
451 Fusion of Art and Science - A Criticality

We will explore why it is critically important to our education to fuse science with art. In the creative mind, visualization strongly enhances understanding, while science lends the creative writer new metaphors, the artist might contribute to an "outside-the-box" understanding. There is a connection between physics, metaphysics, and religion, and the connections become more apparent when art and science are taken collectively. This 3-session course will have many examples.

See bio for John Mannone above under class #450.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., November 2, 9, 16

452 Nonfiction Book Group (Online - ZOOM)



Nonfiction subject matter ranges widely: politics to biography, history to natural science, adventure to psychology, sociology to business – we read them all. Here’s an opportunity to discover the ever-changing and evolving facts and opinions expressed by the “experts” in subjects of personal or general interest. Members recommend books they have read with final selections of personal or general interest. Final selections are made by majority vote. Attendees may be surprised to read titles they might never have considered – PLUS enjoy lively discussions that often stimulate additional thoughts on these subjects from a plethora of members’ experiences and viewpoints.

September 17: *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization* by Franklin Foer

October 15: *Fluke: Chance, Chaos, and Why Everything We Do Matters* by Brian Klaas

November 19: *The Fullness of Time: Marking the Day* by Birdsong, Blooms, Shadows, and Stars by Cathy Haynes

*Class coordinator is Lalia Wilson. **This book group meets online via ZOOM.***

Three sessions: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m., September 17; October 15; November 19

453 Ovid’s Heroides (Online - ZOOM)

“The risks you took – without a thought for your family –

...This is caution, this is thinking of me?”

From Penelope’s letter to Ulysses in reaction to his exploits in the *Odyssey*

“You lie about everything, and I’m not the first

To be deceived by your fraudulent tongue.”

From Dido’s letter to Aeneas, commenting on his Sack of Troy in Vergil’s *Aeneid*



Heroides is a collection of 21 epistolary poems by the Roman poet Ovid, featuring letters from mythological heroines to their absent or unfaithful loves. Ovid helps us imagine what Greek and Roman myth would look like if women had written the stories. This work humanizes mythological figures, provides a female perspective (written by a male) and influenced later literature.

Ovid’s Heroides will be read and discussed in class. The group reads orally in round-robin manner.

Mispronunciations are considered creative. Required text: students in this class must obtain a copy of Ovid – Heroides, translated by Stanley Lombardo and Melina McClure (Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2024).

Other translations are available but because we read aloud, everyone must use the same translation (paperback and Kindle versions are available from Amazon).

Nancy Burwell and Tom Tague are not classicists. They had careers in STEM fields, but they shared their educational paths with degrees in English. They enjoy the group fun of reading classical literature aloud.

Twelve Sessions: Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 9,

454 Shakespeare's Rivals (Online - ZOOM)

As we learned in our previous co-reading of two plays each by Marlowe and Shakespeare, not only is it felt that Marlowe influenced Shakespeare, but it is now generally accepted that they collaborated on the three Henry VI plays. And indeed, Marlowe is listed as co-author in a recent edition of the New Oxford Shakespeare.

Modern playwright, Liz Duffy Adams, wrote *Born with Teeth*, an imaginative telling of how that collaboration between these literary giants might have gone down. Ms. Adams has generously given us permission to read this play, and if our schedules permit, when we finish the play, she will Zoom with us to discuss it. It seemed such a perfect wrap-up to the Marlow-Shakespeare interactions. Two young men in their mid-twenties, Marlow, perhaps more well known than Shakespeare at the time. No ego involved at all... So how did that play out?

We will read the play orally in round robin fashion, using the text provided by Ms. Adams, screenshare mode. The play is not extremely long, so, as time allows, we will round out the term looking at some poetry by the two authors.

Elane Streets' education allowed little time for the arts, so she is working to fill in some of the holes in her retirement. As a life-long learner, she will organize the class and be learning along with all of you – and learning from you. "We are all learners and all teachers."

Twelve Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., September 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

455 Shakespeare Out Loud (Online - ZOOM)

"TO, beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the green-ey'd monster, which doth mock
The meat it feeds on.

But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed."

"Men should be what they seem."



Othello is a must-read among Shakespeare's tragedies. Known for its raw emotional intensity, the play pits the titular character, a noble Moorish general, against his manipulative ensign, Iago. Motivated in part by professional and personal jealousy, Iago, who plots to bring down the Moor, manipulates both characters on stage and the audience.

Join us as we explore themes of reputation vs. honor, appearance vs. reality, and betrayal vs. trust.

We meet via ZOOM and read orally in round robin manner, stopping for informal discussion as the group desires. Bring your own unabridged version of the play. Various editions often lead to interesting discussions.

Terri Gilbert joined ORICL and the Shakespeare Out Loud group upon her retirement in 2020. A former English teacher at Clinton High School, Terri has a BA in English, MEd in English education, and EdS in reading.

Ten Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m., September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17

456 Let's Read A Mystery (Online - ZOOM)

Why do we love mysteries? For some it is the process of watching something artfully concealed be slowly revealed. Many of us like a genuine surprise, something we didn't see coming; yet something, once it is revealed, we realize is inevitable. We appreciate an interesting crime that needs resolution. We crave the intellectual challenge of solving a puzzle. We enjoy being caught up in the cat-and-mouse game between the "good guys" and the "villains" in a thriller. We appreciate the protagonist through dangerous situations, knowing we are safe. For our mystery group, murder and mayhem can be lots of fun. Join us if you dare!



September 22: *The Murder List* by Hank Phillippi Ryan

October 27: *The Hitchcock Hotel* by Stephanie Wrobel

November 17: *The Talented Mr. Varg* by Alexander McCall Smith

December 15: *The Survivors Club* by Lisa Gardner

Class coordinator is Claudia Earhart. This book group meets online via ZOOM.

Four Sessions: Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., September 22; October 27; November 17; December 15

457 Fiction Book Group (Hybrid)

The fiction book group encourages its members to read and discuss the fiction of the last several decades. We read the recent winners of the National Book Award, the Pulitzer Prize, the Booker Prize, the PEN/Faulkner Award, and other literary winners. Members recommend books they have read, and the final selections are made by majority vote. Attendees will discover new authors and titles to enjoy. You will like the lively, informal discussions and the insights offered by the avid readers in the group

Class coordinator is Kay Moss. This group is a hybrid class (both in-person and online via ZOOM). The in-person group will meet in room F-112.

Three Sessions: Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., September 24; October 22; December 3

458 Speculative Fiction (Online - ZOOM)



This class is for those who love sci-fi and fantasy books and want to share their enthusiasm and discover good new reads. This group will meet via ZOOM once a month to discuss a book chosen by majority vote.

September 24: *The Dragonriders of Pern* (volume 1) by Anne McCaffrey

October 22: *The Automatic Detective* by A. Lee Martinez

December 3: *Elven Blood* (volume 1 of the Vellhor Saga): A Fantasy Realms Novel by Mark Stanley

Class coordinator is Lalia Wilson. This book group meets online via ZOOM.

Three sessions: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:10 p.m., September 24; October 22; December 3

459 Classic Literature Revisited (Online - ZOOM)

Are there well-known books considered classics that you haven't read but would like to explore? Might there be some lesser-known titles by well-known authors that could be added to the list of their more famous works? What do these books and authors say to you now? Do they have a timelessness that applies to today's life and times or are/were they just a good story? What makes a book a classic?



The classics book group will discuss classic literature with the view of challenging each other for new insights into old favorites. The group reads mainly novels first published 50 or more years ago that are still in print/or easily obtained. We read prize-winning books by prize-winning authors. We read books that were bestsellers in their time, were recognized as the best then, and often still are. Attendees may bring their own suggestions of books and authors for future reading!

September 14: *Rise & Fall of the Third Reich* by William Shirer

October 12: *Alice Adams* by Booth Tarkington

November 9: *The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow

December 14: *The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow

Class coordinator is Janice Watkins. The book group meets online via ZOOM.

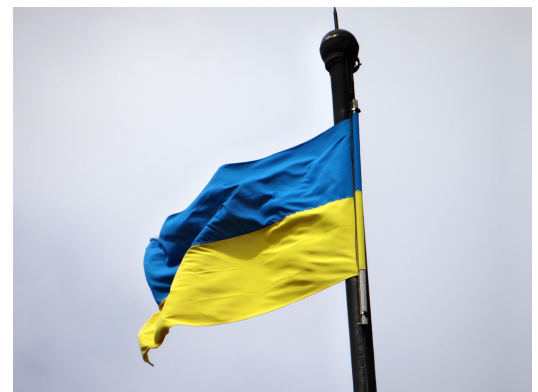
Four Sessions: Mondays, 1:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m., September 14, October 12; November 9; December 14

Language

500 Ukrainian I

This class is a continuation of Ukrainian I that began in the fall 2026 term. We will be using the book *Beginner's Ukrainian* by Yuri Shevchuk, Third Edition, ISBN 978-0-7818-1439-3, available online or on order from Books-A-Million. There will be about an hour's worth of homework weekly.

We will probably be no further than chapter 8 in the book, meaning that we will have covered the alphabet, print and cursive; the concepts of gender and case; pronouns; aspect; past tense verbs; accusative and locative cases; plural and singular nouns and adjectives; and numbers to 100. If you feel comfortable with these, feel free to join us.

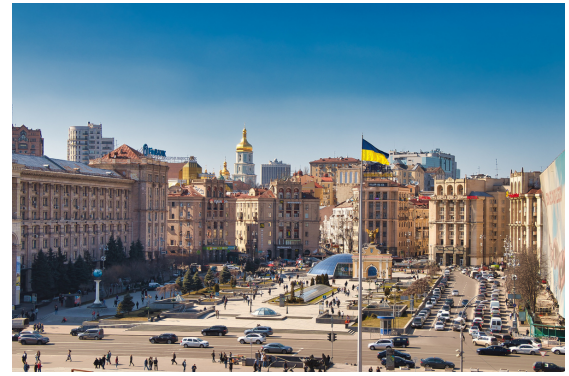


Karen Davis worked for the federal government for 42 years. All that time she was speaking or translating Russian or Ukrainian. For the last 12 years of her career, she taught languages to DOD personnel. She scored 4s in reading on the Interagency Language Roundtable scale (near native) in both languages.

Twelve sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m., September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1

501 Ukrainian II

This course will be a continuation of Ukrainian II taught in summer 2026. We will continue using the book *Beginner's Ukrainian* by Yuri Shevchuk, Third Edition, ISBN 978-0-7818-1439-3 available online or you can order from Books-A-Million. There will be about an hour or two worth of homework weekly. The class will begin with concepts such as case and gender; adjectives; singular declensions of accusative, genitive, prepositional and dative cases in nouns, pronouns, and adjectives; past, present, and future tenses; aspect; impersonals; and numbers. If you are comfortable with those, you are welcome to join us. If not, please join the Beginning Ukrainian course instead.



See bio for Karen Davis on page 32 under class #500.

Twelve sessions: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m., September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1

502 Latin II - Intermediate



The plan for this course remains a help-each-other format while having fun together translating stories/readings and learning more advanced grammar. The texts and readings will be chosen by the participants as the semester progresses.

Class coordinator is Nancy Basford.

Eleven sessions: Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19; December 3

503 Russian I

Russian (a highly inflected distant cousin of English) is the fifth most-widely spoken language in the world, the mother tongue of millions of people in a global power (the Russian Federation) spanning 9 time zones and 1/8 of the world's surface, and by millions more in post-Soviet countries and a large diaspora. It is the language of a rich literary tradition, as well as scientific and economic developments – and that's without getting into its political importance. This class is intended for those who know no Russian at all. Learners who want a refresher course are welcome but should be aware that we'll be starting at the very beginning. Continuation courses are also offered, so check them in the catalog. We will begin with the basics of the alphabet and pronunciation and continue with grammar and reading practice. The emphasis will be in reading comprehension (and thus translation), but students will learn to speak and understand spoken Russian. There will be homework, perhaps an hour or 90 minutes a week.



See bio for Karen Davis on page 32 under class #500.

Eleven sessions: Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. – 3:40 p.m., September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18; December 2

504 Russian II

This class will be a continuation of Russian II offered in the summer 2026. We will continue to use The New Penguin Russian Course by Nicholas J. Brown (ISBN 978-0-140-12041-7); it's available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books-A-Million.

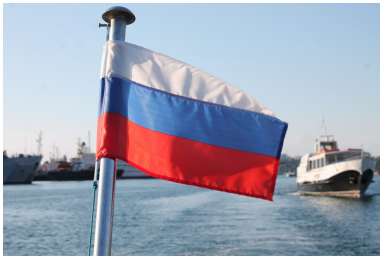
We will have covered past and present tenses and aspects of verbs; accusative, prepositional, genitive, and dative cases of nouns and adjectives; reflexive verbs; dative and instrumental cases; aspect in past and future; imperatives; and relative clauses. If a student is comfortable with those, they are welcome to join us.



See bio for Karen Davis on page 32 under class #500.

Twelve Sessions: Mondays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., September 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

505 Russian III



This course will be a continuation of Russian III which was offered in the summer 2026. We will continue to use The New Penguin Russian Course by Nicholas J. Brown (ISBN 140-124041-7). It is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books-A-Million. We will begin with a good review of numbers, and verbs of motion. If you are comfortable with those topics, you are welcome to join us, otherwise please join Russian II. There will be homework of around an hour or two per week.

See bio for Karen Davis on page 32 under class #500.

Eleven sessions: Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m., September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18; December 2

506 Russian IV - (Online - ZOOM)

This course is an intense, intermediate level review for students who are well-grounded in Russian; it will be a continuation of Russian IV offered in the summer 2026. We will be using the review textbook V Puti by Kagan, Miller, and Kudyma (ISBN0-13-028280-4), which is out of print but readily available on used book sites. We will be covering one chapter every two weeks beginning with chapter 10.



See bio for Karen Davis on page 32 under class #500.

Twelve sessions: Mondays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:10 p.m., September 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Thank you for contacting the ORICL office when you cancel a class. It is a courtesy to the class instructors, the trip leaders, the office staff, and especially to those on the waiting lists!

507 Russian V



This class will be a continuation of Russian V which was offered in the winter/spring term of 2026. We will be using these books: *150 Russian-English Conversations* by Hayasuf Jawa (ISBN 9789827428861591), *Russian Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediate Learners* by Language Guru (ISBN 978-1-95031-22-3). They are available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Abe Book and Books-A-Million.

Anyone is welcome to join us. We will be reading and translating; you should be reading at least B1 level (ILR 2) and preferably B2 (ILR2+).

See bio for Karen Davis on page 32 under class #500.

Twelve sessions: Mondays, 2:30 p.m. – 3:40 p.m., September 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

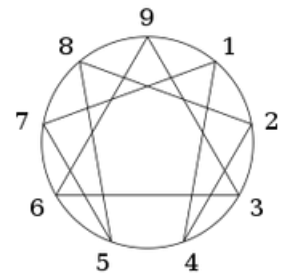
Hobbies & How-to

550 Applying the Enneagram in the Real World

In this class you will gain a working understanding of all nine Enneagram types. You will identify your own type, key strengths, and challenges. The class will engage in guided reflection on real life scenarios. You will practice adapting your communication approach across different personalities. You will leave the class with 2 to 3 practical tools to improve communication and conflict.

Naomi Asher is a leadership speaker and coach with over 18 years guiding teams to greater effectiveness. Certified enneagram education and PhD candidate studying leadership and burnout, she brings insights and real-world application to her workshops.

One Session: Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., November 11



551 Crochet Basics

Fee: \$20

If you are new to crocheting, or need a refresher course, this class is for you. You will learn four or five basic stitches, how to choose a project, yarn basics, and how to read a crochet diagram. You will receive lots of resources and have the opportunity to crochet several small projects. Left-handers are welcome. The \$20 materials fee will cover your crochet needs for this class.

Lalia Wilson has crocheted for years and finished various projects. She is also the facilitator for the Crochet & Conversation class.

Four Sessions: Mondays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., September 21, 28; October 5, 12



ORICL reserves the right to take photographs in ORICL classes and on excursions. Photographs may be used in ORICL newsletters, brochures, course catalogs, and/or other publicity designed to help the organization meet its mission.

552 Crochet and Conversation



This group will meet for two hours once a week to crochet or knit together on our own projects. Since participants will be at varying levels of ability, participants may share information about yarn, projects, and techniques. Knitters or other crafters are welcome to join us.

Lalia Wilson is an avid crocheter who has completed many projects.

Twelve Sessions: Mondays, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., September 14, 21, 28;
October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

553 Air Fryer Cooking for One or Two

Fee: \$5

This cooking class is designed to cook using an air fryer for just one or two people. We will have hands-on demonstrations and sample recipes.

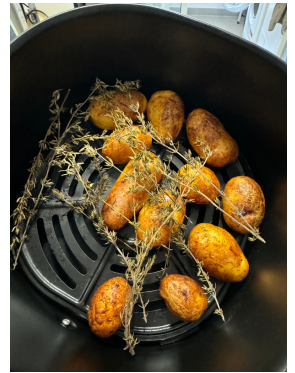
There will be two sessions of this class, only choose one.

Patricia Paden is the University of Tennessee Extension Family & Consumer Sciences Agent for Anderson County. She conducts educational programming throughout the county in the following areas: nutrition and food safety, community health, human development, and consumer economics. A Knoxville native, Patricia, has enjoyed working in Anderson County and getting to know its residents since beginning this position in March 2023. She earned a BA of psychology from Berry College in Rome, GA and an MA in educational psychology from the University of Tennessee.

Session A: Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., October 8

Session B: Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., October 15

This class will meet at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN.



554 Restaurants From the Ground Up

This class will be a complete dialog of owning and operating a full-service restaurant and/or catering business. We will discuss the pros and cons of the restaurant business, including securing financing for first time owners.

Dean Russell began washing dishes at age 13. Once in the kitchen he began his career with prep work and got his first real job as a cook at age 16 in downtown Knoxville at Union Café. Shortly after he moved to Kristopher & Co. where he trained to become a chef through an apprenticeship at a Mobile-rated, four-star restaurant, which was their flagship restaurant. Several years later he moved to Vero Beach, Florida before returning to this area to open his first restaurant, which was a crossover of fine dining in the evening and blue collar during the day. It was a huge success. He has opened approximately eight restaurants since that time and still operates a restaurant today.



One Session: Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., November 6

555 Restaurant Ownership Essentials: From Concept to Community Impact

This course explores the real-world dynamics of owning and operating a restaurant, blending the creative, emotional, and business-driven sides of the industry. Students will learn how menus are developed, how hospitality shapes guest experiences, and how restaurants adapt to changing customer expectations, cultural diversity, and evolving food trends. Through practical insights and case-based discussion, the course emphasizes leadership, financial discipline, team culture, and community connection as core elements of long-term success. By the end, students will understand not only how restaurants function day to day, but also how they build identity, resilience, and meaningful relationships within the communities they serve.

Alex Gass was born and raised in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where food was woven into every part of his life. His earliest memories are of helping his aunt, late mother, and grandmother cook for hundreds at church, and learning the art of smoking meats from his Uncle Jim. His journey in food has taken him from working on a grass-fed organic farm as a boy to creating some of the most refined plates in the region. As a traveling chef, he blended his love of food and music while catering for bands like Widespread Panic, Van Halen, and Elton John. Today, as an Executive Chef, he works closely with local farmers to reinvent the dishes that remind him of home. Food has become his way of honoring those he's lost, expressing creativity, and connecting with people. With the support of his wife, Jessica, and their children, Trinity and Jasper, Alex has built a place where he can share that joy every day as the founding chef of Fire & Salt.

Two Sessions: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., September 23, 30

556 What Makes Food Memorable? Exploring Memory, Flavor, Culture, and Connections Through Food

Why do some meals stay with us long after the last bite? Why can smell of a certain dish instantly transport us to another place, another time, or a cherished memory? Food is much more than nourishment. It is memory, culture, tradition, and connection.

Explore what makes food truly memorable beyond recipes and ingredients. Through discussion, tasting experiences, storytelling, and hands-on activities, participants will discover how flavor, culture, hospitality, and human connection shape meaningful dining experiences.



John and Jennifer Marx, a U.S. military veteran and his family, own Barriga Llena, a restaurant fueled by discipline, heart, and a love of service. Our founder brings 25 years of leadership experience, a lifelong passion for food, and a deep commitment to community. In Spanish, Barriga Llena means “full belly” and represents more than just food. It reflects our belief that great food can bring people together through connection, culture, and community - one plate at a time.

As a military family, every place we’ve lived has influenced our food. Rather than focusing on a single cuisine, Barriga Llena offers a globally inspired menu drawing from Colombian, American, Latin, Mediterranean, Asian, Southern, and Texas BBQ traditions.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., October 12, 19, 26

557 Dining With Diabetes

Fee: \$15



Dining with Diabetes is a lecture and hands-on learning course taking place during three consecutive sessions. The course covers research and evidence-based recommendations for meal planning to prevent and manage type 2 diabetes.

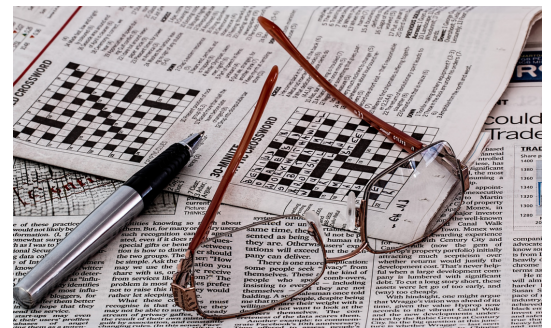
See bio for Patricia Paden on page 36 under class #553.

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., November 3, 10, 17

This class will meet at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN.

558 Cryptic Varietal Crossword Puzzles (Online - ZOOM)

Mental exercise (such as working crosswords) is thought to benefit older brains by keeping them agile. In Cryptic Crosswords each clue is a puzzle in itself. And beyond that, cryptic crosswords add a fun layer of logic to the standard crossword format, making them crosswords on steroids! The cryptic clues combined with variations on the construction challenge the solver with novelties beyond the standard puzzle. When this class began in 2012, no one had a clue! Well, they did but didn't know how to solve it. Since then, we've developed into a group of addicted, self-selected masochists, but new class members are very welcome; and we will teach them the skills that the veterans have learned. These puzzles are fun to work together since each participant brings a unique, puzzle-solving perspective to the team. American varietal crossword puzzles are used to learn how to solve cryptic clues and to deduce the wordplay of varietals. Cryptic crosswords seem impossible at first, but they operate within a system of Fair Play rules, and class members develop skills and strategies to unveil their mysteries. Regular crossword skills such as good vocabulary are assets, but mental flexibility and clue-type recognition is where the fun begins!



Elane Streets was recently asked: "how does one "teach" crosswords?" One learns by doing, as with most things, but these crosswords also operate within a rule's framework, which, like the rules of any game, can be taught. Elane began learning to solve cryptic crosswords as a newlywed in England in the 1970s, and although the shock was severe in the beginning, she has learned to treasure them much more than even the toughest U.S. regular puzzles.

Twelve Sessions: Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1

559 Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg is a traditional Chinese tile game that originated in the 19th century. It is typically played by four players using 144 tiles categorized into suits, winds, dragons, and bonus tiles (jokers). Participants will need to order the 2026 card from National Mah Jongg League, Inc. www.nationalmahjonggleague.org

Jo Walker Demag has studied and played Mah Jongg for several years. She has taught the game at several locations and currently teaches the game at the Clinton Senior Center on Fridays.



Six Sessions: Mondays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., October 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23

560 Go Wild in Your Garden!



Large or small, your yard can become a sanctuary to an exciting array of wildlife. Learn how to fill your outdoor spaces with biodiversity and enjoy magical, park-like experiences in your own backyard.

Kendra Neitzel is a staff member with Tennessee Naturescapes. Her early life was influenced by parents that worked for the San Diego Zoo where she was introduced to many exotic animal species like Saiga Antelope, Arabian Oryx, pandas and cheetahs. After college graduation she taught biology to grades K-12 for a few years.

Eight Sessions: Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19

Lectures

600 Friday Lecture Series

The Friday Lecture Series features presentations on a wide variety of topics that in the past ranged from beekeeping, acupuncture and anthropological discoveries to esoteric research on quark-gluon plasmas or zoological studies. The series features experts in the arts, sciences, local histories, and other areas that should prove of general interest to ORICL members. Politics and religion will, however, be left for other classes. Members are encouraged to volunteer to give talks or recommend speakers.

The class moderator is Carol Plasil.

Eight sessions: Fridays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m., October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20

Donation Levels

There are four categories of ORICL memberships:

- **Regular memberships** are currently \$190 per year
- **Friends** contribute a minimum of \$25 more than the otherwise applicable membership fee.
- **Sustaining Memberships** are available for \$50 or more above regular memberships
- **Sponsoring Memberships** are available for \$100 or more above the regular memberships.

The additional donation above the regular membership amount is tax deductible.

Information about ORICL

Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL) - Fall 2026

The Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL) is a program sponsored by Roane State Community College. It offers classes and activities for adults in Oak Ridge and nearby areas. People of all backgrounds and education levels are welcome to join. To take part in ORICL classes or activities you must become a member and pay dues.

Membership Fee

- Membership fees are now due!
- \$190 per registrant (includes ORICL's three terms: Fall 2026, Winter/Spring 2027, and Summer 2027).
- Friend, Sustaining, and Sponsor Memberships are also available. See page 39.

When Classes Begin

- Fall Classes begin on Monday, September 14, 2026.

How to Register

Online at ORICL website. www.roanestate.edu/oricl or **paper** form sent to the ORICL office

- Online registration opens August 4 at 9:00 a.m.
- Members can choose up to 10 classes at first.
- Couples must submit two separate forms.
- Classes are filled first come, first serve.

If You Register by Paper

- Paper forms are entered after online registration opens.
- Submitting early improves your chance of getting into your chosen classes.

Class Schedule and Waiting Lists

- Class schedules will be mailed after registration.
- If a class is full, you may be placed on a waiting list and notified if a space opens.

Extra Course Fees

- Some Classes (like art classes) may require extra materials fees.
- These fees must be paid by the first week of classes (September 14-18).

ORICL Office: Room F-111
RSCC
701 Briarcliff Avenue
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.;
leave a message at other
times

Susan Perry, Administrator
Sydney Moon, Assistant Administrator

Phone: (865) 481 - 8222
Email: oricl@roanestate.edu
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