ORICL

Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning

February 8 - April 30

Online Registration Opens December 8



Winter/ Spring 2027

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

Roane State Community College

Enriching Lives Through Continued Learning

Contents

Art, Music & Travel 3

100: Greek Island Hopping 3
101: *Art a la Carte* 3
102: Bracelet Making 4
103: ORAC Permanent Collection 4
104: Beethoven's Piano Sonatas 4
105: The Genius of Michelangelo 5
106: The History of the Blues 5
107: Songs of Death and Despair 6
108: Volcanoes, Waterfalls, Glaciers, etc. 6
109: Musical History of East TN 6
110: Storytelling with Jim Eastin 6
111: Watercolor Painting 7
112: The Joy of Songwriting 7

Computers, Science & Technology 7

150: Coal Combustion 7
151: Weapons of Mass Destruction 8
152: Let me G00gle That for You! 8
153: Nuclear Science 8
154: Identity Theft, Fraud & Scams 9
155: Cedar Glades 9
156: Nature at Night 9
157: Appalachian Mountains 10
158: Technical Book Group 10

Finance & Business 11

200: Protect My Assets 11
201: Wills v.s. Trusts 11
202: When My Spouse Dies 11
203: Transferring Values 12
204: Investing 12
205: Retirement Planning 101 12

Community, Culture & Resources 13

250: What's Happening - Oak Ridge 13
251: Appalachian Bear Rescue 13
252: Living with Antisemitism 14

History 15

300: Traveling to Swabia 15
301: Fads, Fashions, and Flappers 15
302: The Age of Exploration 15
303: Loss of Steamboat "Sultana" 16
304: When Did the Civil War Begin? 16
305: Secret City Stories 16
306: History Rhymes 17
307: Cemetery Preservation 17
308: "Golden Oldies" 17
309: General Joseph A. Cooper 18
310: Yes, It Happened 18

History (Cont.) 18

311: Exploring the Custer Myth 18
312: Holocaust Study Group 19
313: Presidents of the United States 19
314: Housing, Sports, & Transportation 20

Philosophy & Religion 20

350: First Amendment Freedom 20
351: Living on Pagan Time 21

Health, Wellness & Medicine 21

400: GAINING! As You Age 21
401: Positive Psychology 21
402: Body Menders 22
403: Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease 22
404: Food Allergy Case Studies 23
405: Jewish Healers 23

Literature & Film Studies 23

450: Shakespeare Out Loud 23
451: Classic Literature Revisited 24
452: Nonfiction Book Group 24
453: Shakespeare's Rivals 25
454: Speculative Fiction 25
455: Showcase Stories by Ron Rash 25
456: Let's Read a Mystery 26
457: Fiction Book Group 26
458: A Literary Comparison 26

Language 27

500: Ukrainian I 27
501: Ukrainian II 27
502: Latin II 27
503: Russian I 28
504: Russian II 28
505: Russian III 28
506: Russian IV 29
507: Russian V 29

Hobbies & How-To 29

550: Crochet Basics 29
551: Crochet & Conversation 29
552: Ravelry 30
553: Air Fryer Cooking 30
554: Tennessee Butterflies & Host Plants 30
555: Cryptic Crosswords 31

Lectures 31

600: Friday Lecture Series 31

Many Facets of Artificial Intelligence 31

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 Children's Museum, 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, Music & Travel

100 Greek Island Hopping - Crete



This modern-day travelogue will look at ancient history through pictures and lecture.The instructor will discuss the Minoan Civilization as revealed by the excavations of Knossos (Bronze Age archaeological site in Crete) and Akrotiri (located on Santorini Island).

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., March 1

101 *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.

Three Sessions: Fridays, 12:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m., February 26; March 26; April 23
This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Art Center, 201 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge.

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.

102 Bracelet Making Fun

Join us for a fun and low stress bracelet making class. We will be using pre-made black drawstring bracelet blanks, and a one-step looper to create a variety of fashionable and fun pieces where your imagination is your only limit. All supplies are provided. Please bring your readers, if needed, for close up work. No experience necessary, just a yearning for fun.

Nicole Ferrara graduated in 2009 from California State University with a BA in art history and a double minor in philosophy and studio art-painting. Nicole has shown her personal art extensively in California, Washington, and New York.

One Session: Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., March 26
This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Art Center, 201 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge.

103 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 pedigrees and tastes. Learn about the process of acquiring and curating such treasures, 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., February 26
This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Art Center, 201 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge.

104 Beethoven's Piano Sonatas, Part IV



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.

Six Sessions: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17

105 The Genius of Michelangelo, Part II



In The Genius of Michelangelo, internationally recognized Michelangelo expert and award-winning Professor of Art History William E. Wallace gives 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 on the previous page under class #104.

Six Sessions: Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17

106 The History of the Blues

The blues is one of the most influential musical traditions in American history. It emerged from African American experiences in the decades following the Civil War and developed from a mixture of African musical traditions, work songs, spirituals, field hollers, and folk ballads. Over time, the blues evolved from a largely rural form of expression into an urban and commercially successful genre that profoundly influenced jazz, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, soul, country, and modern popular music.



Rob Higginbotham is a founding member of the Smoky Mountain Blues Society. Rob was raised in Brooklyn, NY. His earliest musical influences were associated with the church where he sang in the choir from ages 6 to 14. His life changed when he saw B.B. King live at the age of 14 in 1967. He was influenced by the Kings, James Cotton, T-Bone Walker and others. He played drums in the Jazz Me Blues Band, The Four Gone Conclusions, and smaller projects before switching to guitar in the Performing Band in the early 1970s. After moving to Knoxville in 1989, Robert began going to jams and meeting other local folks. He ran the Blues Jam at Brackins for ten years. Besides playing guitar, Rob has been teaching guitar full time since 2004. He currently teaches at Open Chord in Knoxville, LeGrand Music in Fountain City and online.

Doug Harris, born in Oak Ridge, began singing in church choir when he was 4 years old. In 1994, Doug moved to Murfreesboro, TN, where he worked in retail management with several CD stores in Middle TN. There he learned about all genres of music. In addition, he took classes at Middle Tennessee State University which included the history of popular music in America. Along the way he began playing harmonica and he began playing with bands. Doug returned to Knoxville in 2003 where he started co-hosting the open mic at Brackins Blues Bar. In 2005, he and the band, Blue Revolution, represented the Smoky Mountain Blues Society at the International Blues Competition in Memphis, TN. Doug has released two full albums with The Dirty Dogs. Doug co-teaches the Blues in Schools program for the Smoky Mountain Blues Society and teaches harmonica at Merlins Music in Maryville, TN. Since 2014, he has been a volunteer at Blount Memorial Hospital in a program called Rare Aire, a medical fitness program utilizing harmonica and singing to improve lung function.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 p.m., February 8, 15, 22

107 Traditional Songs of Death and Despair

Country, bluegrass, and especially – traditional songs of the British Isles, are filled with tales of woe: stabbings, shootings, drownings, unrequited love, even airplane crashes and mountaineering accidents. This class will present a small subset of this music, and - of course – provide opportunities to sing along on the choruses. Come join us and bring a hanky.

Elza Gate is a folk duo (Pat Parr and Bob Cushman) from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Since 2015, they have performed a wide variety of music, including traditional tunes from the Southern Mountains, British Isles (and even Canada), bluegrass, and country. They play regularly at the Museum of Appalachia in Norris and the Lily Pad Hopyard Brewery in Lancing and have played at other venues locally and in Kentucky and West Virginia. Elza Gate released its first CD Live at the 201.

One Session: Thursday, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 18

108 Volcanoes, Waterfalls, Glaciers and Rifts



Iceland is an astonishing land, one of powerful waterfalls, active geothermal features, massive glaciers and a continental rift. We will focus on the natural, geological, historic and cultural aspects that a visitor may experience. Through photographs taken on a recent visit, the presenters will share their experiences and impressions of this fascinating country.

Terry and Betty Anne Domm are long-time Oak Ridge residents. They enjoy traveling and learning about exotic places in the world. Terry retired after a 45-year career as an engineer and information manager at the DOE Oak Ridge facilities. He is an avid hiker and photographer. Betty Anne retired from a career as a school counselor. She has an education in and passion for history.

One Session: Thursday, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., March 11

109 A Musical History of East Tennessee: From Celtic Roots to Big Ears

This class will survey the richly detailed and complex history of music in east Tennessee from its Celtic and folk roots, through country and bluegrass, to soul, gospel, and blues. The class will also explore the colorful biographies of musicians such as Roy Acuff and Dolly Parton.

Henry L. Wilson is a retired English professor. He earned a PhD in English from the University of Tennessee in 1993. He taught freshman composition, technical writing, southern literature, American literature, western civics and science fiction.

Twelve Sessions: Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27

110 Storytelling with Jim Eastin

Enjoy a delightful storytelling session with storyteller Jim Eastin, featuring engaging tales, memorable characters, and plenty of fun for everyone.

Jim Eastin has been telling stories for over 40 years. He is president of the Smoky Mountain Storytellers Association. He works to spread the joy of storytelling.

One Session: Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 19

111 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.

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

Verna Shelden 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 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 art development for all grade levels.

Session A: Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16
Session B: Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., March 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27

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

112 The Joy of Songwriting



Find the joy in the creative songwriting journey. Participants will learn a variety of ways songs are written, elements that make up a song, how songs differ from poetry, the rules of songwriting, and when to break the rules. Participants will have the opportunity to write and share a song of their own. It helps to play an instrument but is not necessary. The class is open to beginners and experienced writers.

David Easterling is an internationally critically acclaimed songwriter with awards and songs that have done well on a variety of charts. David co-writes 102-160 songs a year with artists in Oak Ridge, Nashville, New Orleans and around the world. He writes songs in several genres with experienced songwriters and beginners. He writes in many styles; mostly Americana, folk, Appalachian Roots, Cajun, comedy, faith, and story songs. David performs over 100 times a year with his original songs.

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 9, 16, 23

Computers, Science & Technology

150 Coal Combustion



This course provides a comprehensive examination of coal combustion in the United States and around the world, with a focus on its role in modern energy production. Students will explore coal resources, fuel characteristics, combustion processes, and the factors that influence efficiency, emissions, and economic value.

See bio for Alex Gabbard on page 3 under class #100.

One Session: Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., March 8

151 Weapons of Mass Destruction; Their History and How to Prevent These

An enlightening (and troubling) history of weapons of mass destruction (WMD; chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological) will be provided. In response, various efforts to halt the spread of WMD programs have been developed at both domestic and international levels, such as treaties, international control agencies, and limitations on the transfer of requisite technologies, commodities, and materials. This is a repeat of the class taught in the Winter/Spring 2026.

Dave Snider has extensive experience supporting domestic and international efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. He served as a Subject Matter Expert to the Department of Energy on international interdiction programs and US export controls. He was a member of the nuclear search team for the Iraq Survey Group (2004), worked at the International Atomic Energy Agency (2012-14). He has been a frequent instructor to various domestic (e.g., US enforcement and licensing agencies) and international audiences.

Four Sessions: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., February 16, 23; March 2, 9

152 Let Me G00gle That for You!

Frustrated with trying to find information on the internet? How can you find what you want quickly – and have trust in what you find? Some days it's just like searchin' for a hickory nut in a corncrib!
Come join us as we "surf the 'net" – and learn about everything from search engines to browsers. We'll talk about how to spot the junk quickly and easily – from sponsored ads to spoofed and scam sites. We'll discover the difference between a fact and a factoid, and how to SIFT your way to the answers you want. We'll learn about doom scrolling – and how to stay healthy and keep from overwhelming your brain. Finally, we'll take a look at the NEW way of research – AI chatbots and applications. No experience needed. It doesn't matter what computer, phone or tablet you use – after all, all devices lead to the web!



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, 1:00 p.m.- 2:10 p.m., March 31; April 7, 14, 21

153 Nuclear Science in the Classroom

Nuclear science education is being introduced in the Oak Ridge schools. Kris and Ken Light have developed hands-on activities along with a PowerPoint program that covers many different aspects of nuclear science (reactors, types of nuclear fuel, how reactors work, etc.) on a middle school student's level of understanding. Oak Ridge Associated Universities used this program in June 2026 for a teacher workshop and a mini academy for middle school students.

Kris Light has taught science in Oak Ridge for 38 years through ORNL, AMSE, and the Willow Brook Elementary School Discovery Center. Her passion is to foster an interest in all aspects of science.

One Session: Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 12

154 Identity Theft, Fraud & Scams



There are a lot of creative people out there who will go to extreme measures to take advantage of honest people's personal information and hard-earned money. While it is nearly impossible to guarantee 100% protection, we want to help you take steps to reduce your chances of ending up in this situation.

Join us for a workshop to learn about identity theft, fraud, and scams. We will talk about what to be on guard against, how to protect yourself, and steps to take if – despite your best efforts – you experience this.

Richelle Ballenger is a communicator, project leader, and accidental credit union advocate whose career spans marketing, operations, member experience, and community engagement. As Vice President of Member Experience at TN Members 1st Federal Credit Union, her work ranges from brand strategy and community initiatives to digital transformation, technology implantation, UX testing, employee training, and anything else the day might bring.

Richelle holds a BA in communications with a minor in political science and a MPA from the University of North Dakota.

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

155 Cedar Glades: A Hidden Ecosystem

A cedar glade is a naturally treeless habitat with shallow soil. This rare ecosystem is home to notable and rare plants and animals. Join us to explore the biological magic of the Oak Ridge Barrens Registered State Natural Area.

This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Barrens Registered State Natural Area. It involves walking over uneven terrain. Please dress in closed-toed shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.

Paige Crane earned a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife conservation and Master of Science in forestry from Virginia Technical University. She is the current education director at Ijams Nature Center.

One Session: Monday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., April 19

156 Nature at Night: Owl Prowl



From symbols of wisdom and knowledge to omens of bad luck, owls have fascinated people across cultures and throughout history. Discover how the unique traits, behaviors, and ecological roles of owls have shaped our fascination with these birds. Join Ijams Nature Center Education Director, Paige Crane, on a night hike to search for owls on the trails of Oak Ridge Barrens.

This class will be held at the Oak Ridge Barrens Registered State Natural Area. It involves walking at night over uneven terrain. Please dress in closed-toed shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.

See bio for Paige Crane above under class #155.

One Session: Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., February 8

157 How Old are the Appalachian Mountains?



We were taught in junior high school that the Appalachians are “old worn-down” mountains, whereas the Rockies are a “young rugged” chain – some still believe that. Renewed uplift of southeastern North America spilled classic sediments onto the Atlantic and Gulf margins from the Late Cretaceous until the Eocene as the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico continued to open. Carbonate deposition resumed during the mid-Cenozoic, but the Appalachians were uplifted again in the Miocene-Pliocene producing the modern southern-central Appalachian topography. It also supplied voluminous sediment to the Gulf and Atlantic margins. Present-day topography and drainage patterns indicate Paleozoic-early Mesozoic tectonics and rock types play a minor role in modern topography: major streams that drain the western Appalachians head into the eastern Blue Ridge and Piedmont.

While the available data taken separately should make us skeptical and could be dismissed, taken together they provide a powerful argument that the present-day topography is very young. We will separate this data into groups for simplicity of presentation, then bring them together at the end into a cogent whole. The different data sets consist of some 9 groups of evidence from: modern Appalachians topography and southern and central Appalachian drainages (and paleodrainages); Mesozoic-Cenozoic deposits in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains and continental margins including pockets of relic Mesozoic-Cenozoic sediments in the Appalachians; late Mio-Pliocene fossils uniquely preserved at a site in northeastern Tennessee; modern dynamic topography; sediment provenance data detrital zircons; crustal thickness data; in situ stress data; and mantle tomographic data.

Bob Hatcher is an Oak Ridge resident of some 40 years. He is a field scientist with a primary goal to unravel the tectonic history of the interiors of mountain chains. While he and graduate students have worked primarily in the Appalachian Mountains, he spent many weeks in the field studying the internal makeup and tectonic history of other chains in Europe, South America, Siberia, and western North America.

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

Seven Sessions: Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23

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., February 22; March 22; April 26

Finance & Business

200 How Can I Protect My Assets from a Nursing Home?



Worried about losing your hard-earned assets to nursing home costs? This eye-opening class breaks down how long-term care can impact your finances and what you can do now to protect what's yours. We'll explore legal tools, planning strategies, and common misconceptions around Medicaid and asset protection. Whether you're planning for yourself or a loved one, you'll leave with actionable steps and greater peace of mind.

Neva Foust is a dedicated probate and elder law attorney based in Knoxville, TN (Foust & Foust, PLLC). She is a JD, Magna Cum Laude graduate of Lincoln Memorial University. She also obtained an MBA from Lincoln Memorial University. With a unique combination of legal knowledge and her background as a Certified Public Accountant, Neva offers her clients a thorough understanding of the financial complexities of estate administration and elder law. She enjoys applying her skills in both law and accounting to help individuals and families through the probate process.

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

201 Wills vs Trusts: What's the Difference?

Estate planning doesn't have to be complicated. This informative class is designed to help you better understand the differences between wills and trusts and how each one works. We'll discuss the key differences, benefits, potential drawbacks, probate, and common estate-planning considerations.

John R. "Rusty" Foust is a highly experienced estate planning attorney and a Certified Estate Planning Specialist dedicated to helping individuals and families protect their assets, preserve their wealth, and create lasting financial legacies. With a strong background in tax and estate planning, Rusty understands that effective estate planning is about more than documents, it's about people, families, and the legacy they want to leave behind. He works closely with clients to develop thoughtful, customized plans designed to meet their unique goals and ensure their assets are passed on according to their wishes. His goal is to make complex topics approachable and practical, giving those he teaches the information and confidence they need to make informed decisions about their families, their assets, and their futures.

One Session: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., February 24

202 What Happens When My Spouse Dies?



Losing a spouse is one of life's most profound and overwhelming experiences – but you don't have to navigate it alone. In this compassionate and practical class, we'll walk through what really happens when a spouse dies: emotionally, legally, and financially. From handling immediate decisions to understanding what comes next, you'll gain clarity, support, and a sense of direction. Whether you're planning ahead or coping with a recent loss, this session offers guidance, resources, and space for your questions.

See bio for Neva Foust above under class #200.

One Session: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., February 17

203 Transferring Values Through the Transfer of Valuables



Through this presentation we will learn how charitable estate planning can allow us to leave a legacy of values through our estate plans. We will begin by discussing a few basic estate planning concepts that will help all of us understand the need for planning and how things can often go wrong without both proper planning and proper understanding of how the plan works. We will discuss some ideas that we can use to integrate charitable giving to the broader estate plan. We will then conclude with examples of how charitable estate planning can accomplish your goals through the transfer of your valuables.

Jeremy Pharr, JD, serves as President of the Charitable Estate Planning Institute 501(c)(3). The institute offers top level education on charitable estate planning for development staff, gift planning officers and professional advisors.

One Session: Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., March 23

204 Investing for Income - Comparing Stock Dividends, US Bonds, and Annuities

This class will explore the various investment options available in the United States. Participants will learn about different types of investments and compare their historical performance using up to 10 years of investment data. Class participation is encouraged.

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.

Four Sessions: Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 25; March 4, 11, 18

205 Retirement Planning 101

A discussion regarding key retirement risks (longevity, long-term care, sequence of returns, etc.) and how to mitigate those risks. Includes discussions on wealth management, retirement income strategies, LTC insurance, and minor estate planning and tax topics.

Alex Dalton, FSCP, ChFC is a Knoxville native and fiduciary financial advisor with 4.5 years of experience helping individuals and families build, protect, and preserve their financial futures. He specializes in long term care and retirement planning, estate conservation, and legacy planning, while also helping clients with wealth management and investment strategies.

Alex takes a comprehensive, relationship-focused approach to financial planning, with an emphasis on helping clients protect what they have worked hard to build and create a lasting legacy for the people they care about. Based in Knoxville, he serves clients throughout the surrounding communities, including Anderson, Loudon, Blount, and Monroe counties.

Three Sessions: Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 11, 18, 25

Community, Culture, & Resources

250 What's Happening Around Oak Ridge

Katy Watt and Tamara Fleischhaker will present a class on what the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce is doing around town. They will also talk about upcoming events in the Oak Ridge community.

Tamara Fleischhaker serves as the President and CEO of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, where she leads the organization's effort to strengthen the local business community, advance economic vitality, and help shape the future of Oak Ridge and the greater East Tennessee region. With nearly two decades of chamber and economic development leadership experience, including 19 years with the Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership in Florida, she brings a strong background in strategic growth, partnership development, workforce initiatives, and community engagement.

Katy Watt has been the President of Explore Oak Ridge since December 2018. Prior to that she was in the credit union industry doing marketing and development for almost 30 years. Katy is devoted to promoting the unique history and abundant outdoor activities in the Oak Ridge area and has made numerous presentations around the region to increase tourism and encourage local visitation as well.

One Session: Friday, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., March 5

251 All About Appalachian Bear Rescue



This will be an informal seminar about the history, operations, and mission of the Appalachian Bear Rescue. A 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1991 to provide a facility where orphaned and injured black bear cubs from the Smoky Mountains can be rehabilitated and released back to the wild without being habituated to humans.

Greg Grieco is the current executive director at ABR. He grew up in Farragut, TN and attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he studied human physiology and played a little bit of football for the Volunteers. After graduating in 2015, he began working as a wildlife ranger in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park wrangling bears, hogs, elk, bats and everything in between. In 2024, he left the park to work for the Appalachian Bear Rescue in Townsend. Greg's favorite part about working at ABR is sharing the stories of the cubs who owe their second chance at life in the wild to the efforts of ABR's hardworking staff and generous supporters from around the world

One Session: Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 11

Schedule Updates

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

252 Living with Antisemitism

The first Jews arrived in what would eventually become the United States in 1654, and Jews have played important roles in American society ever since. They've also dealt with anti-Jewish bigotry in all periods of American history. In general, most American Jews report that the impact of antisemitism on their religious and cultural community diminished throughout the latter decades of the twentieth century and the beginning of the 21st. However, starting in 2015 there was a sharp jump in the number of Americans holding antisemitic views. There was also a sharp jump in antisemitic incidents, ranging from hate speech and threats towards Jewish organizations and individuals to the mass murder of Jews in Pittsburgh in 2018. The dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents has continued to this day, spiking again in 2023 with the Hamas mass murder, rape, and kidnapping of Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023. This, the largest single day murder of Jews since the Holocaust, was met by some in this country with celebration. The war that followed has been accompanied by an increased threat environment for American Jews.

This class will attempt to put current American Antisemitism into context and give participants a chance to discuss trends in and responses to this scourge on American liberty. The historical background of antisemitic beliefs and behavior will be briefly covered, but most of the course will deal with how antisemitic ideas and acts affect contemporary Americans. Why are Jews targeted for hate and how do American Jews cope with the hatred? How does antisemitism relate to racism and other forms of bigotry? What political, religious, and social factors have led to an increase in antisemitic expressions and behaviors? What are the "code words" and other methods that antisemites use to signal to like-minded people while maintaining plausible deniability of antisemitic views? In what way do political figures exploit antisemitism for their own gain? Does that ever backfire? Is it possible to be an antisemite and a supporter of the State of Israel? Is it possible to have antisemitic views and have Jewish friends and relatives? We will explore these and other questions concerning this timely and difficult topic. This class is being taught as a companion class to the Holocaust Study Group. Attendance at the Holocaust Study group is not required to attend this one.

Dale Rosenberg is a Jewish educator in Oak Ridge, the codirector of HA'OR Academy, and the rebbitzen (rabbi's wife) of the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge. She holds master's degrees in Jewish Studies and Jewish Education from Hebrew College and teaches in a variety of settings. She has taught 15 different classes at ORICL since moving to Oak Ridge in 2024.

Five Sessions: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., March 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14

ORICL Board of Directors

Jim Knox, President	Nancy Burwell
Judi Gray, Vice President	Betty Anne Domm
Lois McKeever, Treasurer	Charles Kessel
Becky Rushton, Curriculum Chair	Richard Machanoff
Phyllis Alexander	Ruby Miller
Jake Alexander	Dennis Wolf

Curriculum Committee

Becky Rushton, Chair
Susan Perry and Sydney Moon, Class Schedule
Harriett McCurdy, Volunteer Assistant Coordinator

Karen Davis, Betty Ann Domm, Judi Gray, Debi Harrell, Bob Hatcher, Rebecca Keller, Jim Knox, Sue Lasky, Priscilla McKenney, Kay Moss, Carol Plasil, Stephen Reddick, Jim Rushton, Jackie Rylander, Susie Stooksbury, Michael Toomey

History

300 Traveling to Swabia: An Adventure Across Time

I Am Gisele, Empress is the primary literary context for this class, treating it as historical fiction grounded in real people and events in Swabia (present-day southern Germany and Switzerland) in the early 11th century, with Gisele's rise to Empress of the Holy Roman Empire at the center.

See bio for Alex Gabbard on page 3 under class #100.

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

301 Fads, Fashions, and Flappers: Coping with Change in the 1920s



This class will look at the 1920s, decade of profound change such as the United States has seldom seen. It was a decade that began in the aftermath of a horrific world war and ended with an economic crash that devastated the nation. And yet, in the intervening years, people danced the Charleston, drank bootleg liquor at the local speakeasy, and eagerly joined in with all the fads and fashions that the "Age of Ballyhoo" had to offer. They embraced the Harlem Renaissance and new styles of literature and music and witnessed essential changes brought about by the "new woman." Affordable automobiles transformed society, while the radio created a national audience that followed a pantheon of celebrity icons, sports heroes, and scandalous politicians. This was the "Roaring Twenties," an aptly named decade with echoes that can still be felt today.

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 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.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., February 22; March 1, 8

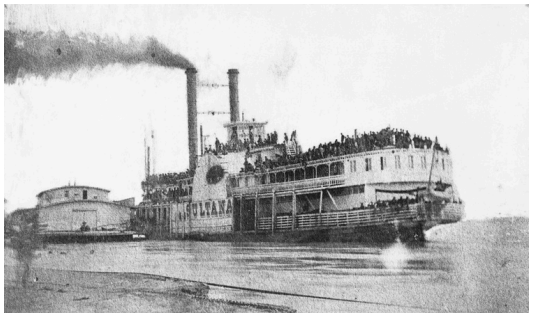
302 The Age of Exploration: Myths And Realities

This class will explore, in a Rankean historical method, the causes and effects of the Age of Exploration on Europe and the Western Hemisphere. We will also address some common historical myths as well as delve into the changing economics of the period.

Michael DiMatteo is an experienced social studies educator with more than two decades of teaching experience. He has taught U.S., European, and World History, including advanced placement courses, and has extensive experience in curriculum development. He has graduate-level training in curriculum and instruction and has been recognized for excellence in teaching, including Teacher of the Year honors.

Five Sessions: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., March 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14

303 Loss of the Steamboat "Sultana": America's Worst Maritime Disaster



The steamboat "Sultana" exploded in the middle of the Mississippi River at 2:00 a.m., on 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 US Third Tennessee Cavalry. This is a repeat of the class that was taught in Fall 2026.

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.

Two Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., March 9, 16

304 When Did the Civil War Begin?



The general answer to the question posed by the title of the class is the attack on Fort Sumter. While that does mark the beginning of the military conflict, the actual origins of the war go back much further. This is not an event that arose from nowhere. So, historians have long debated the question of when exactly was the point of no return? When did the war become inevitable? With this class you can join that conversation as we discuss the cultural and political divides in the decades leading up to the most contentious conflict in our nation's history.

David Adkins is a historian with two decades of experience who is currently teaching at both Pellissippi and Walter State Community Colleges. In addition to teaching, he works as an editor/proofreader, event organizer, freelance artist and person that apparently cannot sit still.

Four Sessions: Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., March 25; April 1, 8, 15

305 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 the possible future science and heritage tourism efforts. Guest speakers will present information about their areas of expertise.

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; and newspaper columnist for The Oak Ridger and Morgan County Today's Historically Speaking weekly column. He has been a documentary film producer; photographer; author of "Critical Connections," and an ORICL instructor for several years.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., March 15, 22, 29

306 History Rhymes: Lessons From America's Most Progressive Era (1870-1920)

Mark Twain famously observed that "History does not repeat itself – but it rhymes," perhaps pushing back against George Santaya's warning that "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it". This course examines the often-misunderstood U.S. era c. 1870 – 1920, testing the related assumption that "history repeats itself" and that "hindsight is 20/20." Much like our times, a controversial war preceded that era and unleashed rapid, often unintended economic-technological explosions, producing aftershocks that challenged and reshaped every facet of American life. This course rests on two key ideas: first that our preoccupation with the culminating consequences of this era – Two World Wars with a Great Depression in between – obscures how Americans adapted to these earlier transformations; and second that those adaptations may offer perspectives – 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.*

Eight Sessions: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., February 11, 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1

307 Cemetery Preservation and Restoration

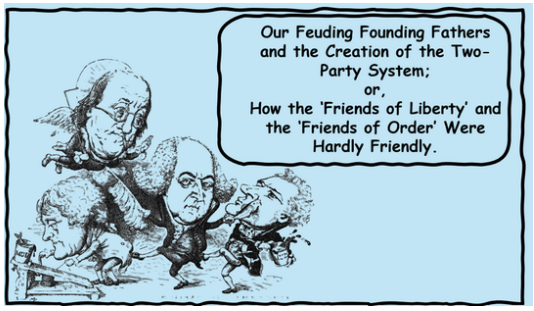


This course will explore the process of restoring abandoned and neglected cemeteries, including the proper methods for resetting, repairing, and cleaning monuments. Participants will learn the practical steps involved in cemetery restoration and the importance of preserving these historic sites. The course will examine both the how and the why of cemetery restoration, highlighting the historical, cultural, and community significance of preserving these important links to our past.

Timothy Dake of Harriman, TN is a professional engineer with a background in mechanical engineering. He earned both his bachelor's degree and master's degree in mechanical engineering from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.

Two Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., February 8, 15

308 Professor Fred's "Golden Oldies"



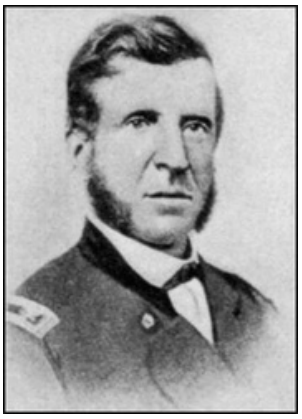
Across over forty years in Academia and during almost every semester, Fred had the privilege of teaching either American History I or American History II. Several course-lectures are among his favorites – "Golden Oldies." So, this is your invitation to return to your sophomore year in college and to experience three samples from pre-Civil War American history.

Lecture #1: "The Garden of Eden and America's Discovery; or How Europe's Medieval Mind Bumped in the New World and Ignited the Modern Epoch."
Lecture #2: "Our Feuding Founding Fathers and the Creation of the Two-Party System; or How the 'Friends of Liberty' and the 'Friends of Order' Were Hardly Friendly."
Lecture #3: "The Awful 1850s; or How Society's Polarization Led to the Irrepressible Tragedy that Followed."

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., February 9, 16, 23

309 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 in the Battle of Nashville in December 1864.

After the war, Cooper completed his service by commanding the Tennessee State Guard after his appointment by Governor William Brownlow. He is buried in Knoxville's National Cemetery. This is a repeat of the class that was taught in Fall 2026.

See bio for Norman Shaw on page 16, under class #303.

Two Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., March 30; April 6

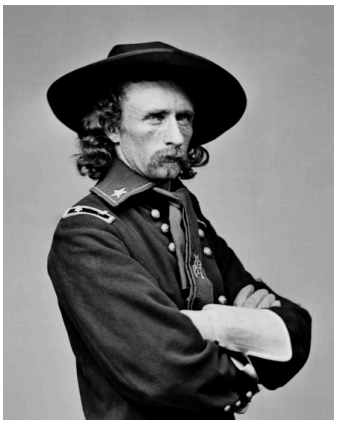
310 Yes, It Happened in East Tennessee

Based on the four books published by Dewaine Speaks, several notable events have occurred in East Tennessee history. Historic disasters, unsolved murders, important inventions, and enriching uranium to end a war – all will be discussed.

Published works by Dewaine Speaks are: "Wild About Mary," a short story; Preparing for International Travel*, an informative travel book;* Weston Fulton Changed the World*, a biography of Tennessee's most prolific inventor; and* East Tennessee in World War II*, the story of the contributions to the war effort by East Tennesseans. He earned a BA with a major in Economics from the University of Tennessee, where he was a member of the Volunteers baseball team.*

One Session: Thursday, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., March 25

311 Exploring the Life and Myths of General George Armstrong Custer



The Battle of Little Big Horn and the death of George Armstrong Custer is a story that will not die. Was he a hero or a villain? Join us as we review this epic story from the American West. We will review Custer's amazing rise from West Point, to combat, and his unfortunate death along with 210 members of the 7th U.S. Cavalry. We will also discuss the amazing love story that was about George and Libbie Custer.

Part I: Custer in the early years including the Civil War
Part II: Custer, the frontier protecter culminating with the Battle of the Little Big Horn

Michael Thornton is a retired military officer who taught history and foreign affairs at military schools to provide context for current and future operations. He teaches historical lessons learned for military units in Georgia and Tennessee. He has written a series of articles concerning the history of Nordic countries and their significance to current events in Europe. Thornton earned a master's degree in public administration from Jacksonville State University.

Two Sessions: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., March 16, 23

312 The Mira Kimmelman Holocaust Education Study Group

This newly revamped and expanded course will examine the historical context of the Holocaust and analyze its impact on our modern world. Oak Ridge Holocaust survivor Mira Kimmelman warned us that “only by remembering the bitter lesson of Hitler’s legacy can we hope it will never be repeated.” Our five-session class takes Mira’s words to heart – exploring the questions that the Nazi regime raises about democracy, tolerance, antisemitism, bigotry, and hatred.

In this year’s class, we will read and discuss Sonia Schreiber Weitz’s memoir, *I Promised I Would Tell*. The author and her sister were the only two members of their 84-member extended family to survive the war. She turned to poetry as a way of processing her grief and experiences, and her memoir combines both narrative passages and examples of her poetry.

We will continue to explore Mira Kimmelman’s story through selected video excerpts and reminiscences. Other aspects of the Holocaust will be explored with outside readings, interactive exercises, and other resources.

This class is discussion-based and interactive. Attendance each week is strongly encouraged. Each two-hour session will include a short break. An optional field trip to the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge synagogue will be scheduled during the course as well.

Steve Reddick is a retired Jefferson Middle School history teacher and, more recently, has served as a Teacher Fellow for the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and Facing History and Ourselves. For the past nine years, he has co-facilitated the Mira Kimmelman Holocaust Education Study Group that was initially started by the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Ridge and meets through ORICL.

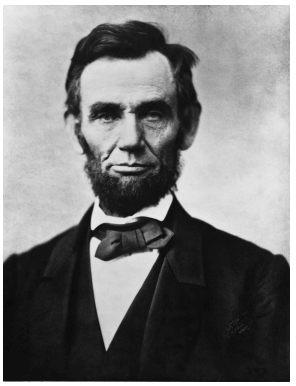
Dorothy DeVan retired from teaching English at Jefferson Middle nine years ago. Each year, she taught a unit of Holocaust literature that included the play version of The Diary of Anne Frank, plus excerpts from Holocaust survivor memoirs, including local author, Mira Kimmelman. She has previously taught two ORICL classes focusing on short stories, and she also teaches English as a Second Language classes twice a week at Grace Lutheran Church.

Dale Rosenberg is a Jewish Educator and the Rebbitzen (Rabbi’s wife) of the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR). She has a master’s degree in Jewish Studies and Jewish Education from Hebrew College and has taught in a number of colleges, synagogues, conferences, and retreats. Since moving to Oak Ridge in 2024, Dale has been a frequent teacher at ORICL as well as JCOR and the Arnstein Jewish Community Center in Knoxville.

Five Sessions: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10

313 The Presidents of the United States

This is a continuation of the series on the presidents in order from Washington to Trump. This term will begin with Abraham Lincoln and end with Grover Cleveland. Each lecture will discuss both their personal lives and their importance as presidents.



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 and is again working but is also teaching for ORICL.

Four Sessions: Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., March 3, 10, 31; April 7

314 Housing, Sports & Transportation in the Atomic City

This class will explore housing, recreation, social activities, and transportation during the early years of the Atomic City, using photographs and historical documents to bring this unique period to life.

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.

One Session: Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., March 11

Philosophy & Religion

350 Freedom of and from Religion in the First Amendment (HYBRID)

William Lee Miller's book on religion and the American Republic, *The First Liberty*, identifies religious liberty, the first liberty named in the Bill of Rights, as the "unique liberty in which the nation was 'conceived.'" Including more than personal religious freedom, it protected the full institutional independence of the federal union from all churches and the churches from the state (p. vii).

In spite of the tension it poses and the controversy it stirs, the right and limit of religion in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution continues to stand at the foundation of freedom in this nation, and Thomas Jefferson's interpretative metaphor "wall of separation between church and state" has contributed both to healthier government and more vital religion. Derek H. Davis, editor of Journal of Church and State (winter, 2003) addressed the debate over the "Wall of Separation Metaphor": "Destroy Jefferson as a strong separationist and destroy in the process a major plank in the foundation upon which the Everson Court relied in articulating the view that the First amendment has erected a 'high and impregnable' wall between church and state."

However, the 2020 SCOTUS 5-4 decision in Espinoza v. Madonna Department of Revenue changed the balance between the establishment clause and the freedom clause to breach the wall allowing public funding of religious schools.

Larry Dipboye is a graduate of Baylor University and holds three seminary degrees, including a 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 Seminary. Larry 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., April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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.

351 Living on Pagan Time – The Wheel of the Year

Many modern pagans use The Wheel of the Year to map 8 festivals (sabbats) based on solstices, equinoxes, and the Celtic cross quarter days. These festivals honor nature's cycles and agricultural rhythms and help guide our spiritual growth. Pagans also celebrate esbats in addition to sabbats. These may include following the cycles of the moon, life events such as weddings, deaths as well as those used for healing and other special needs.

Toni Stephenson has been a Pagan for many years using the Wheel of the Year in her personal spiritual practice. She has taught several ORICL classes including one on Wicca and feminine spirituality and has presented similar topics at other venues. She has happily "come out of the broom closet" and loves teaching about her spiritual path.

Two Sessions: Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 17, 24

Health, Wellness & Medicine

400 ~~Maintaining~~ GAINING! Balance and Muscle as You Age

Keep doing the things you love with greater strength and confidence. Join physical therapist and orthopedic specialist Alaina Marino for a practical, 70-minute class on managing and improving muscle mass and balance as you age. Learn simple strategies and everyday habits to help you stay active, reduce your risk of falls, and support lifelong independence.

Dr. Alaina Marino believes that getting older shouldn't mean giving up the things you love – whether that's gardening, traveling, playing with grandchildren, or feeling steady on your feet. With more than 20 years of experience, she brings advanced expertise and a warm, down-to-earth teaching style that makes learning comfortable and practical. She is an AAOMPT level fellow and board-certified orthopedic specialist, as well as an educator who teaches both students and other PTs. She has two doctorates in her field and 4 advanced certifications in hands-on musculoskeletal care. Her goal is to help you understand your body and feel confident about what you can do to stay strong and independent.

Two Sessions: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., February 9, 16

401 Positive Psychology, Gratitude & Purposeful Aging

We will define positive psychology and how it differs from "positive thinking". We will explore the five core elements of well-being, the science of happiness and how it is related to gratitude, and talk about happiness as we age. We will also look at the science of gratitude and gratitude practices that work.
We will discuss the importance of meaning and purpose in our lives for well-being, as well as explore strategies for building resilience, an important element of positive aging. We will put the information from these 2 classes together and talk about practices to integrate them into your life, as well as resources to consider learning more about this interesting topic.

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 TN.

Two Sessions: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., April 20, 27

402 Body Menders Fee: $10



A fitness class designed for older adults but meets the needs of everyone – the overweight, diabetic patients, heart patients, the sedentary, the athletic and those recovering from illness or injuries. It offers agility, flexibility, strength, circulation, improved balance and coordination, new energy and vitality and a reclaiming of lost skills and comfort.

Frances Gross is certified by Energizing Exercises, NDEITA, Instructors Training Clinic and Choreo-Aerobics from Georgia State University, has Exemplary Certification Body Recall, is a Certified Trainer/Body for Recall/Special Populations, Tennessee Elderhostel, Advanced Fitour Pilates, Fitour Yoga. She is currently teaching at National Fitness and the Children's Museum.

The class will be held in the gym at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, 461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge.

Three Sessions: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., February 11, 18, 25

403 All the Most Important Things to Know About Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease -The Map

Because our brains are so incredibly amazing, we need to preserve their functioning. Your knowledge and understanding of dementia/Alzheimer's Disease matters regarding prevention as well as how to navigate your way should you or loved one begin to show the signs of cognitive impairment. Knowledge is power throughout the course of dementia as it is a map for providing care and quality of life throughout the journey.

Jill Wilson holds a master's degree in urban studies – specializing in healthcare delivery systems and a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. She is a certified life coach. She was a director of a geriatric assessment center and became a regional manager of geriatric services as part of Milwaukee's Geriatric Institute. Later in Colorado she was a director at a VA senior living facility. She has taught at several colleges and universities and then switched focus to behavioral health doing therapy and later became director for behavioral health.

Three Sessions: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., February 8, 15, 22

Donation Levels

There are four categories of ORICL memberships:

- **Winter/Spring memberships** are currently $130 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.

404 Food Allergy Case Studies



This class will provide a general overview of food allergies and their management. Several case studies will be presented to illustrate key concepts, and questions from the audience will be encouraged throughout the session

Dr. Jeffrey Schlactus is a private practitioner in Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He is a graduate of Albany Medical School, Albany, NY. He completed a residency in pediatrics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He completed a Fellowship in allergy/immunology at Texas Children's Hospital, Gaylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX. He is in private practice in Knoxville, TN.

One Session: Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., March 30

405 Jewish Healers: Maimonides to Jonas Salk

Jewish culture has long valued medicine and Jews have contributed for centuries to the advancement of medical science and practice. This course will briefly explore some of the reasons that Jewish doctors have been so prominent, as well as some of the obstacles Jews have encountered in getting a medical education and in practicing medicine

Most of the class will be devoted to profiling the lives and accomplishments of notable Jewish healers. It will include the very well known, like the medieval polymath Maimonides, and Jonas Salk, developer of the first polio vaccine. It will also consider some lesser know physicians whose accomplishments deserve to be remembered, like Paul Ehrlich and Gisella Perl.

See bio for Dale Rosenberg on page 14 under class #252.

Four Sessions: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., February 11, 18, 25; March 4

Literature & Film Studies

450 Shakespeare Out Loud (Online – ZOOM)



“This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England” (Act II, Scene 1)
“I wasted time and now doth time waste me.” (Act V, scene 5)

Join us as we read *The Tragedy of King Richard II*, a play that explores the fragility of royal authority as it highlights themes of power, misrule, and political betrayal, in which Shakespeare forces his audience to question whether a leader’s legitimacy depends on moral virtue or one’s ability to perform as a leader.

We will read orally in round robin manner, stopping for informal discussion as the group desires. Mispronunciations are welcome! You must have your own unabridged version of the play to read. Various editions pose no problems. Instead, differences often become discussion points.

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., February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13

451 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?

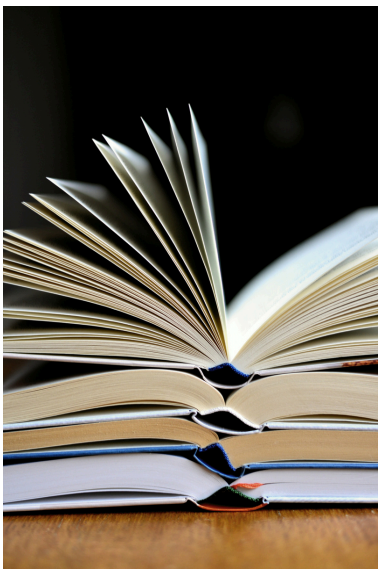
The classics book group will discuss classic literature with the view of challenging each other for new insights into old favorites. The group reads mainly novels first published 50 or more years ago that are still in print/or easily obtained. We read prize-winning books by prize-winning authors. We 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!

January 11: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thormton Wilder
February 8: *From Here to Eternity* by James Jones
March 8: *From Here to Eternity* by James Jones
April 12: *Ubik* by Philip K. Dick
May 10: *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper

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

Five sessions: Mondays, 1:30 p.m. – 2:40 p.m., January 11; February 8; March 8; April 12; May 10

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 your 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 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.

January 21: *We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution* by Jill Lepore
February 18: *The Future is Peace; a Shared Journey Across the Holy Land* by Aziz Abu Sarah and Mooz Inon
March18: 1491 (Second Edition) : *New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann
April 15: *Beyond Inheritance: Our Ever-Mutating Cells and a New Understanding of Health* by Roxanne Khamsi
May 20: Rasputin: The Downfall of the Romanovs by Antony Beevor

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

Five sessions: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m., January 21; February 18; March 18; April 15; May 20

453 Shakespeare's Rivals (Online – ZOOM)

Something for everyone – a comedy this term! Ben Jonson is generally considered the third best Elizabethan-Jacobean playwright after Marlowe and Shakespeare. His canon is relatively compact (21) compared with Shakespeare's (37-ish), but Jonson's plays are remarkably varied, from the sharply satirical to the pastoral. We will read "The Alchemist," considered his most mature and most perfectly constructed comedy (1610). Those of you who know me can perhaps guess why this appealed to me.

We will read the play orally in round robin fashion, using a text from Project Gutenberg, screenshare mode.

Elane Streets' education allowed little time for the arts, so she is working to fill in some of the holes during her retirement. As a life-long learner, she will organize the class and be learning along with all of you – and learning from you. As she tells her crossword class of self-selected masochists, "we are all learners and teachers." It's an empowering model of instruction.

Tom Tague will continue as Zoom host and provide background information.

Twelve Sessions: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., February 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26

454 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.

January 28: *The Aeronaut's Windlass (The Cinder Series Book 1)* by Jim Butcher
February 25: *The Extinction: A Novel (Cash & Colcord Book 1)* by Douglas Preston
March 25: *Magic Casement (A Man of His Word Book 1)* by Dave Duncan
April 22: *Artificial Condition: The Murderbot Diaries (Book 2 of 8*) by Martha Wells
May 27: *Secrets of the Catalogue* by Amelia Spencer

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

Five sessions: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:10 p.m., January 28; February 25; March 25; April 22; May 27

455 Showcase Stories by Ron Rash, the 2027 Literacy Luncheon Speaker

Drawing from three of Ron Rash's earlier works, *Something Rich and Strange* brings together thirty stories that capture the heart and soul of Appalachia. Through vivid portrayals of the region's landscapes and people, Rash explores the powerful ways geography shapes identity, community, and the lives of those who call the mountains home.

Kay Moss is a retired English teacher from Oak Ridge High School. She taught for over 40 years. Kay has been teaching and coordinating classes in ORICL for 20 years.

Three Sessions: Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 11, 18, 25

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!

January 26: *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Muderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto
February 23: *Conviction* by Denise Mina
March 23: *Gone for Good* by Joanna Schaffhausen
April 20: *The Castle in the Glen* by Rhys Bowen
May 25: *Murder in the Grand Alpine Hotel* by Lucy Foley and Agatha Christie

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

Five sessions: Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:10 p.m., January 26; February 23; March 23; April 20; May 25

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., February 25; March 25; April 22

458 A Literary Comparison of The Mad Woman in the Attic and Wide Sargasso Sea

"Reader, I married him" is well known as the ending statement of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, but readers of this enduring classic know Jane wasn't the only wife of Edward Fairfax Rochester.

Haunted by the aspect of the mad woman in the attic, author Jean Rhys wrote a short prequel to Bronte's novel. Set in the West Indies in the 1840s, the novel has three narrators: the young Creole heiress then known as Antoinette; young Mr. Rochester; and Bertha, from the attic room.

For this class, we will read and discuss *Jane Eyre* followed by *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Rhys's novel is widely available in paperback and Kindle versions but can also be obtained online as a free PDF.

Terri Gilbert joined ORICL and the Shakespeare Out Loud group upon her retirement in 2020. A former English teacher at Clinton High School and adjunct with Roane State Community College, Terri has a BA in English, MA in English Education, and an EDS in reading.

Ten Sessions: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14

Language

500 Ukrainian I

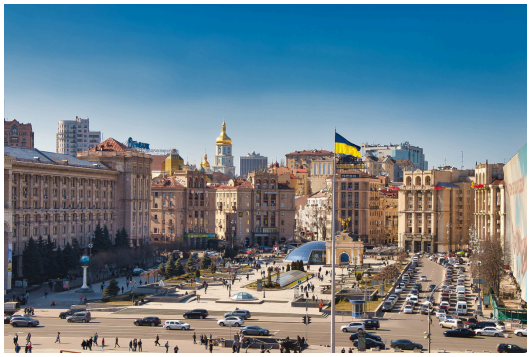


Ukraine is an old country that has been in the news recently. Its language is an Eastern Slavic language, related to Russian but distinctly different. A beautiful and complex language, it's tricky for English speakers, but well repays your efforts. In this class we'll be starting from the very beginning, with the alphabet, so don't worry if you have no experience with it or any Slavic language! We'll be using the book *Beginner's Ukrainian* by Yuri Shevchuk, Second Edition, ISBN 978-0-7818-1324-2, available online or on order from Books-A-Million here in Oak Ridge. There will be about an hour's worth of homework weekly.

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., February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27

501 Ukrainian II



This course will follow on from Ukrainian II taught Fall 2026. We'll continue 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 here in Oak Ridge. There will be about an hour or two worth of homework weekly. The class will most likely begin with Chapter 10; we will have covered basic cocepts such as case and gender; adjectives; singular declensions of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives in all cases; past, present, and simple future tenses; aspect; and numbers. If you are comfortable with those, you are welcome to join us. If not, I suggest the Beginning Ukrainian course instead.

See bio for Karen Davis above under class #500.

Twelve Sessions: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., February 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27

502 Latin II



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., February 11, 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22

503 Russian I

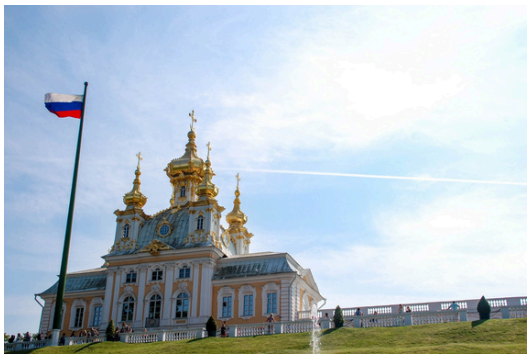


This course is a continuation of Russian I from the Fall Term of 2026. We will continue to use *The New Penguin Russian Course* by Nicholas J. Brown (ISBN 978-0-140-12041-7); it's available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books-A-Million, and the local BAM can order it.
We will have covered the basics of the alphabet and pronunciation and the beginnings of Russian grammar, i.e. nouns and gender. We will be ready to begin with verbs and pronouns. 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 to 90 minutes a week.

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

Twelve Sessions: Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28

504 Russian II



This will be a continuation of Russian II offered in the Fall term of 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, and the local BAM can order it. 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; and impersonals. If a student is comfortable with those, they are welcome to join us.

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

Twelve Sessions: Mondays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26

505 Russian III



This course will be a continuation of Russian III which was offered in the Fall term of 2026. We will continue to use *The New Penguin Russian Course* by Nicholas J. Brown (ISBN 978-0-140-12041-7); it is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books-A-Million, and the local BAM can order it. We will be ready for conditional, obligational mood, and verbs of motion. If you are comfortable with those topics, you are welcome to join us, otherwise I suggest Russian II. There will be homework of around an hour or two per week.

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

Twelve Sessions: Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m., February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28

THANKS!

Eagle-eyed editors of the preprinted catalog are Nancy Basford, Becky Rushton, Marti Salk, 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.

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 Fall Term of 2026. We will be mainly doing translation of current articles from Russian press and grammatical analysis.
NOTE: This class is offered by Zoom only.

See bio for Karen Davis on page 27 under class #500.

Twelve Sessions: Mondays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m., February 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26

507 Russian V



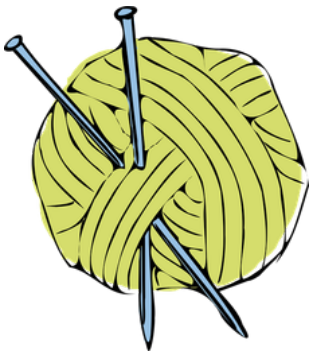
This course will be a continuation of Russian V which was offered in the Fall term of 2026. We will be using the books *150 Russian-English Conversations* by Hayasuf Jawa (ISBN 9789827428861591), and *Russian Short Stories A1-B1 Level* by Leo Tolstoy, edited by Genndy Bogdanov, ISBN 9798244915372; they are available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble Book, and Books-A-Million, and the local BAM can order it. 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 27 under class #500.

Twelve Sessions: Mondays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26

Hobbies & How-to

550 Crochet Basics Fee: $25



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 $25 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.

Five Sessions: Mondays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15

551 Crochet & 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., February 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26

552 A Treasure Trove for Knitters and Crocheters: Ravelry.com

Ravelry is a free on-line website with a continually growing database built by its users: knitters, crocheters, and fiber enthusiasts. You can catalog your yarn stash, post your projects and download patterns. Check out what yarn most people used for a particular project and see how others modified or customized it. Ravelry provides ideas, organization, connections with others and a place to comment or ask questions. We will review the main features and how they inter-relate. Whether you are already a Raveler, or thinking of signing up, come learn more about this amazing free source.

Janet Fryer has been knitting since 2005, inspired by the knitting group at the Senior Center where she worked. She is a heavy user of Ravelry, posting her yarn purchases as soon as she brings them home and projects as soon as she starts one. While her career has been in social services and market research, she is enjoying her retirement by gardening, knitting, reading, and attending ORICL classes.

One Session: Monday, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., February 8

553 Air Fryer Cooking for One or Two Fee: $5



This class is a cooking class designed to cook using an air fryer for just one or two people. We will have hands-on demonstrations and sample recipes. Course fee of $5 will cover the cost of the food.

There will be two sessions for this class, please only choose one session.

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: 11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m., Thursday, March 11
Session B: 11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m., Thursday, April 15

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

554 Tennessee Butterflies and Their Host Plants



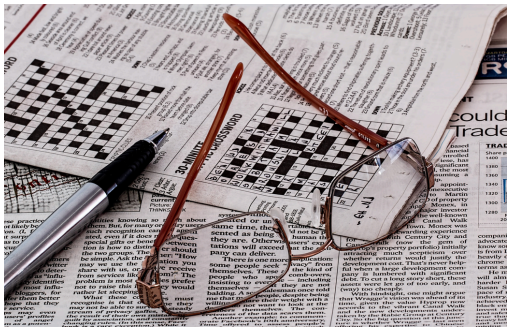
We'll review the more common TN butterflies and the more common host plants looking for matches. Then with student input, we will explore how to attract specific butterfly species and which species to expect to visit your favorite plants in the garden.

Dr. Jan Lyons has taught many ORICL classes ranging from pickleball and historical gardens to economics. She is a member of Anderson County Master Gardeners Assoc. specializing in native plants.

Two Sessions: Mondays, 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., March 22, 29

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 schedules.

555 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 US regular puzzles.

Twelve sessions: Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. – 3:40 p.m., February 9, 16, 23: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27

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.

Six sessions: Fridays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m., February 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19

The Many Facets of Artificial Intelligence



Everyone is talking about AI. Join our local conversation! This class on AI that will explore common questions, such as, what is AI? Is it a gift or a curse? Does it level the playing field or increase the divide between the haves and the have less? Should we embrace data centers or keep them at arm's length? AI is here to stay and will certainly continue to grow in its importance and impact. How do we manage it? For starters, the illustration provided here was generated by AI in just a few minutes! The class is a series of 5 sessions. Each session is run by subject matter experts who will facilitate important and engaging discussions as we navigate the reality of AI. **Further information regarding specific dates, venues, and subject matter for each session will be coming!**

Information about ORICL

Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL) - Winter/Spring 2027

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

- **If you paid your membership in the Fall, no membership fee is due. If you are new to ORICL, the membership fee of $130 is now due**.
- $130 per registrant (includes ORICL's remaining two terms: Winter/Spring 2027 and Summer 2027).
- Friend, Sustaining, and Sponsor Memberships are also available. See page 22.

When Classes Begin

- Winter/Spring Classes begin on Monday, February 8, 2026.

How to Register

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

- Online registration opens December 8 at 9:00 a.m.
- Members can choose up to 10 classes at first.
- Couples must submit two separate forms.
- Classes are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

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 (February 8-12).

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
Web Page: Roanestate.edu/oricl
@ORICLRSCC

RSCC Pub. No. 27-012
775 copies printed by C&D Desktop Publishing and Printing of Clinton