



LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
at VIRGINIA TECH™



Online and in-person learning adventures for curious adults!



SPRING 2022 CALENDAR

Visit www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning for details and updates

<p>Week of Jan. 17</p>	<p>Detailed course and event descriptions available on LLI website</p> <p>Catalog in pdf format available for viewing or download</p>	<p>Feb. 2</p>	<p>Zoom Preview of Spring Program, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration not required.</p>
		<p>Feb. 7</p>	<p>Online and walk-in registration opens at 10:00 a.m.</p>
		<p>Beginning Feb. 21</p>	<p>Classes phased in over several weeks</p>

Cover design: David Stanley, SilverLining Design

Spring 2022 COURSE CATALOG

Thanks to our Donors and Sponsors!

LLI launched its first campaign for sustainability this fall with a goal of raising enough money to hire additional professional staff. Thanks to more than 80 individual donors and 11 sponsoring businesses, LLI was able to advertise for and hire a new part-time employee to complement the services of our LLI registrar, Heidi Dickens. Patty Taylor starts work in mid-January. She will be supporting LLI program work.

Welcome to Patty and thanks to the many generous donors and businesses who made this important step in our development possible!

Annual fundraising activities start again in Fall 2022...

Sustaining Partners



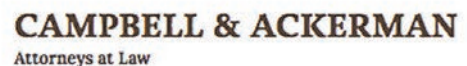
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THE **BLACKSBURG** PARTNERSHIP

Welcome to LLI at Virginia Tech

LLI courses for Spring 2022 will be offered online (8 courses) OR in person (18 courses)—something for everyone! Online learning offers an opportunity to hear and see better, join classes while you travel, and participate from home. Small in-person classes with members who have been fully vaccinated, including a booster, can be a welcome opportunity to gather as safely as possible with new and long-time friends. Participants attending any indoor in-person program are required to wear a mask.

This spring, we brought back an LLI member favorite—field trips. Four have been scheduled around the NRV, each for a small fee.

Free special events are a great member benefit. Four Zoom lectures and four in-person events are on the schedule. You may sign up for as many of these events as you plan to attend.

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The Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech

The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) at Virginia Tech is a member-driven, volunteer organization that draws on the wealth of academic and community resources in the New River Valley to provide intellectual, cultural, and social experiences for curious adults 50 and older.

We welcome all who are interested in the mission and goals of the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech. Membership entails no prerequisites, educational or otherwise—only a desire to join others in intellectual exploration. The people, courses, stimulating discussions, events, and special access to university resources all add up to a fun and rewarding experience.

Spring Preview by Zoom: February 2 10:30 a.m.

Join us via Zoom for our Spring Preview on February 2, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. No registration is required. The webinar link will be sent to those on our email list and posted on the LLI home page.

Contact Information

Heidi Dickens, LLI registrar, 540-231-4364, heidi1@vt.edu

General Registration Phone: 540-231-5182
LLI website:

<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/>

LLI email address: lifelonglearning@vt.edu

LLI Zoom Resources:

<https://tinyurl.com/lli-vt-zoom>

LLI facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/vtlifelonglearning/>

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Heidi Dickens, CPE Program Support and Recording Secretary



LLI Spring 2022 Courses at a Glance

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>9:00 - 10:30, 4 weeks Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 4 Beyond the Basics: Next Steps in Genealogy Research (limit 25) Rebecca Novy CRC, Concept Rm, 1880 Pratt Dr, Suite 2018</p> <hr/> <p>9:00 - 11:30, 6 weeks Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 Exploring Oil Painting (limit 12) Lois Stephens Warm Hearth Village Ctr, Woodland Studio</p> <hr/> <p>11:00 - 12:30, 5 weeks Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr 4 Paint Your Own Barn Quilt (limit 10) Joe Ivers Blacksburg Community Ctr, Art Room</p> <hr/> <p>11:00 - 12:30, 5 weeks Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr 4 Roots of Southern Appalachian Music (limit 20) Fred Benfield CRC, Concept Room, 1880 Pratt Dr, Suite 2018</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 2:30, 4 weeks Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14 Armchair Journeys (limit 50) Molly McClintock, Coordinator Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 2:30, 3 weeks Mar 14, 21, 28 Taste of Technology (limit 35) Carolyn Meier, Sandy Hagman, Diana George, Coordinators Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 2:30, 5 weeks Feb 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 Infections, Vaccination, and Immunity (limit 25) Gerhardt Schurig Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room</p> <hr/> <p>3:00 - 5:00, 6 weeks Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 Appreciating Wines of Oregon & Washington (limit 25) Randall Horst Vintage Cellar</p>	<p>9:00 - 10:15, 6 weeks Feb 22, Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Sampler (Unlimited) Molly McClintock, Coordinator Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>11:00 - 12:30, 3 weeks Mar 1, 8, 15 Foundations of Financial Literacy (limit 25) Christopher and Paul French Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>11:00 - 12:30, 5 weeks Feb 22, Mar 1, 15, 22, 29 (skip Mar 8) Genetically Engineered Animals: Bringing Good Things to Life (limit 25) Eric Wong Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 2:30, 6 weeks Feb 22, Mar 1, 15, 22, 29, Apr 5 (skip Mar 8) Modern Africa: Challenges of Nation Building (limit 15) Joseph Mukuni & Josiah Tlou Hillel at Virginia Tech</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 2:30, 4 weeks Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12 Seeing the Story: Graphic Novels, Memoirs, and Journalism (limit 15) Diana George CRC, Crescent Room, 2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 2100</p>	<p>11:00 - 12:30, 8 weeks Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Apr 6, 13 Great Decisions (Unlimited) Victoria Cochran, Coordinator Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>11:00 - 12:30, 5 weeks Mar 16, 23, 30, Apr 6, 13 Intermediate Conversational Spanish (limit 8) Joe Scarpaci Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Westminster Rm</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 2:30, 5 weeks Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 You Can't Always Get What You Want: Tradeoffs in Food Economics (limit 25) Richard Veilleux Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 3:00, 4 weeks Mar 2, 9, 16, 23 Mah Jongg, A Great Way to Exercise Your Brain (limit 16) Janet Sawyers Blacksburg Community Ctr, Game Room</p> <hr/> <p>1:15 - 2:45, 3 weeks Mar 23, 30, Apr 6 Google Suite and All It Has to Offer (limit 15) Kayla McNabb CRC, Concept Room, 1880 Pratt Dr, Suite 2018</p> <hr/> <p>3:00 - 4:30, 6 weeks Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Futurism: Considering the Next 100 Years (limit 15) Pat Artis Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Hatcher Conf Rm</p> <hr/> <p>3:00 - 4:30, 4 weeks Mar 16, 23, 30, Apr 6 The Delight of Chaos: Zen as Buddhism's Class Clown (limit 25) Russell Gregory CRC, Concept Rm, 1880 Pratt Dr, Suite 2018</p>	<p>11:00 - 12:30, 6 weeks Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 More Wrongful Convictions: What Seems to be the Problem? (limit 20) Jack Call CRC, Crescent Room, 2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 2100</p> <hr/> <p>1:00 - 2:30, 6 weeks Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Examining the Influence of <i>The Prince</i> on 21st Century Politics (limit 15) Al Pearson CRC, Crescent Rm, 2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 2100</p> <hr/> <p>3:00 - 4:30, 4 weeks Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, 14 Listening to Others: How the Mind Interprets Spoken Language (limit 20) Abby Walker CRC, Crescent Rm, 2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 2100</p>	<p>9:00 - 10:30, 3 weeks Mar 18, 25, Apr 1 Demagoguery and Democracy (limit 15) Carolyn Commer Zoom</p> <hr/> <p>9:00 - time varies, 2 weeks Feb 25 (9:00-10:30, Zoom) Mar 4 (9:00-2:00, in-person including lunch) Cooking Chinese Dim Sum with Anne (limit 12) Anne McNabb Session 1 by Zoom Session 2 at instructor's home</p> <hr/> <p>10:00 - 12:30, 6 weeks Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr 1 Figures in Watercolor (limit 16) Jesi Pace-Berkeley Blacksburg Community Ctr, Community Room</p> <hr/> <p>1:30 - 3:00, 4 sessions Feb 25, Mar 18, 25, Apr 8 Free Virtual Events (Unlimited); register for each separately Zoom</p>

CRC = Corporate Research Center

1. Beyond the Basics: Next Steps in Genealogy Research

This course will allow students to dig deeper into the fascinating hobby of genealogy. Topics include using probate and land records, researching immigrant ancestors, and using historic newspapers. Students will learn to access a variety of records both in-person and online with free and paid websites. Each class will feature a 45–60-minute presentation followed by time to practice on your own laptop or tablet. Come ready to learn more about your family history! Participants should have some basic knowledge of genealogy research whether they have taken an introductory class or are self-taught.

TOPICS

- Land records
- Probate records
- Researching immigrant ancestors
- Using historic newspapers

Mondays, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

4 weeks: Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 4

CRC, Concept Room, 1880 Pratt Dr,
Suite 2018

Class limit: 25

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Rebecca Novy is a professional genealogist with over 25 years of genealogy experience. She has previously taught introductory genealogy classes through LLI and a number of other genealogy classes through the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.

2. Exploring Oil Painting

With a no-fear approach, students will be encouraged to explore the many forgiving qualities of oil paints. Various materials and tools will be covered, including working with palette knives and incorporating cold wax for surprising effects. The class is geared for beginning as well as intermediate painters. Curriculum may be adjusted based on goals and experience of students.

TOPICS

- Tools and painting surfaces
- Color—mixing/temperatures/relationships
- Tonal value/contrast/edges
- Design/composition/visual energy
- Goals—imitative or creative

Mondays, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

6 weeks: Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28

Warm Hearth Village Center,
Woodland Studio

Class limit: 12

Course fee: \$35

Materials fee: \$20

INSTRUCTOR

Lois Stephens has a passion for painting in oils and enjoys helping others explore this rich medium. She maintains a studio in the Newport Community Center. View her work online at www.LoisStephens.com.

3. Paint Your Own Barn Quilt

This hands-on class guides participants in the creation of a barn quilt suitable for display on a house, garage, or other exterior surface. Class members measure, draw, and paint a barn quilt on an aluminum board using semi-gloss enamel paint. Along the way, they are introduced to color theory and coached in techniques for painting and measuring. Class instruction is based on the Indian Star pattern, but variations in this basic design and individualized color choices make each barn quilt unique.

CLASS SESSIONS

- 1 Discuss barn quilts, color theory, learn measuring and plan a design. Prepare a board.
- 2 Draw design of quilt on board, discuss taping. Some will start painting.
- 3, 4 Continue taping and painting.
- 5 Put finishing touches on quilt. Take photo of class and quilts. View other quilt possibilities.

Mondays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

5 weeks: Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr 4

Blacksburg Community Center,
Art Room

Class limit: 10

Course fee: \$35

Materials fee: \$25

INSTRUCTOR

Joe Ivers is a lifelong educator. After retirement, he became a Montgomery County School Board member. After taking the Barn Quilt class, he continued to paint thirteen more quilts, several being his own patterns.

4. The Roots of Southern Appalachian Music

In this course we will explore the roots that gave rise to the music one can hear performed around the region today. We will study the Appalachian region, a mountain/valley landscape covering a significant part of 13 states ranging from southern New York to northern Alabama and Mississippi, and learn about the Early European settlers in the region, mainly Scots-Irish and German, who brought their instruments and musical traditions with them. We'll see how music from various regions seeped into the Appalachians over the years and how new forms are still evolving. Participants will have the opportunity each class meeting to experience this music as well as to discover its historical contexts.

TOPICS

- Tunes from the “old country” and themes from these origins
- Folk tunes
- Bluegrass as a new twist on tradition
- Instruments and instrumentalists
- “Newgrass, “folkgrass”—where do we go from here?

Mondays, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

5 weeks: Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr 4

CRC, Concept Room, 1880 Pratt Dr,
Suite 2018

Class limit: 20

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Fred Benfield is a retired freshwater ecologist who has lived and worked in and around the southern Appalachians most of his life and is tied to the region both culturally and through family. He has been performing regional music in a variety of forms and groups since the early 1960s and continues to perform with his son as “American Roots” in the five-county region.

5. Armchair Journeys

Travel along (virtually) on fascinating trips across the country and around the globe. Speakers will share their adventures along with photos/videos enhancing their stories. Participants are invited to join along with questions and comments.

Feb 21. South Africa’s Many Faces: Two Tales of Different Adventures

George Tatum will share the story of his month in a village tucked away in the mountains of Kwa-Zulu Nata followed by Molly McClintock’s remembrance of her visit to Robben Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and former prison of Nelson Mandela.

February 28. Biking Around the North Sea

Carolyn McClintock and her partner bicycled the perimeter of the North Sea, traveling through the UK, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and France over three months. She will share how they planned and executed this 3,500-mile trip and the amazing people and sights they encountered along the way.



Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

4 weeks: Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14

Zoom

Class limit: 50

Course fee: \$35

COURSE COORDINATOR

Molly McClintock

March 7. Festivals, Food, and Fun in Spain: Exploring Valencia and its Environs

Jim Bohland will share his travels in Spain, particularly the city of Valencia and several of the small towns around it. Since Spain is known to be a nation of celebrations, the talk will feature several of the more prominent festivals in the region. What is Spain without food and wine? We will experience, visually, some of the culinary treats in the region, so that you will be prepared for your own journey there.

March 14. Antarctic Peninsula

Susan and Bill Baker, veterans of numerous Road Scholar trips, experienced nature in its purest form on a recent expedition to the beaches, glaciers, and islands of the Antarctic Peninsula. Come and be inspired by the power and beauty of this destination.

6. Taste of Technology

Taste of Technology addresses technology issues, gadgets, and trends and their effective use by seniors.

CLASS SESSIONS AND INSTRUCTORS

March 14: Password Managers and CyberSecurity

Heather Moorefield Lang and Jeff Lang will talk with us about using Password Managers and how to be safe online. Are we really as safe as we think?

Dr. Heather Morefield-Lang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies at University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

March 21: Solar Energy Basics

Are you curious about solar energy and wondering whether it would be a good fit for your home? What are the considerations, costs, and benefits of solar energy and the realities of battery backup? Bryan Walsh will share an overview of current technology and answer any questions you may have.

Bryan Walsh, owner of Solar Connexion, has been installing solar energy systems for nearly three decades.

Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

3 weeks: Mar 14, 21, 28

Zoom

Class limit: 35

Course fee: \$35

COURSE COORDINATORS

Diana George, Sandy Hagman, Carolyn Meier

March 28: Tech Tools for Avid Readers

Are you a voracious reader? Looking for an author's backlog? Want to track what you read? Grab daily deals on eBooks? Join a group discussion of your favorite author or genre? Then join Sandy Hagman for a discussion of websites, newsletters, and more that allow you to immerse yourself in books.

Sandy Hagman is a retired Professional Writer and Technology Trainer. She enjoys reading all types of fiction and non-fiction. Because she is such an avid reader, she enjoys exploring the electronic book world as well as more traditional methods.

7. Infections, Vaccination, and Immunity

The course will explore how humans and other animals become resistant (immune) to infections by microbes and how we can induce and enhance this resistance to make it last a long time. Typical COVID-19 infection and vaccination situations will be used to illustrate the concepts. Although the immune response is designed to control and eliminate microbial invaders, it can sometimes lead to undesirable effects like autoimmunity and allergy. Explanations of these negative conditions and their relationship to vaccination will be included. The course assumes little or no background in Microbiology or Immunology.

TOPICS

- Overview of the immune system; the organs which make up the immune system and the cells which are essential for immunity to develop after infection or vaccination.
- How long does it take to become "immune" to a disease, and how long does protection last? Does age affect these dynamics?
- How can our immune response to microbes actually protect us from infection and/or disease? How can we protect ourselves from misinformation regarding vaccines?
- An immune response going awry? Basic concepts of allergies and autoimmunity.

Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

5 weeks: Feb 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28

Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room

Class limit: 25

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Gerhardt Schurig was a faculty member at Virginia Tech's College of Veterinary Medicine for 40 years. His research at VT focused on immunology and the development of vaccines.

8. Appreciating Wines of Washington and Oregon

Oregon is famous for its Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris wines, and they will be featured from various regions of the state. Washington is home to wonderful Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, and Syrah wines. A broad spectrum of wines from both states will be included in this term's tasting experiences

INSTRUCTOR

Randall Horst has served as wine buyer at the Vintage Cellar for 25+ years. He has taught an LLI wine appreciation course since 2016.

Spring 2022

Mondays, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

6 weeks: Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28

Vintage Cellar, 1338 S. Main St, Blacksburg. *The tasting room lacks space for social distancing.*

Class limit: 25

Course fee: \$35

Wine fee: \$125. Pay the wine fee directly to Vintage Cellar by check or credit card. Look for instructions after enrollment.

9. Sampler

This engaging sampler course treats participants to a wide range of speakers and topics—something different each week. Following the Zoom presentation, the speaker will respond to questions submitted by participants in the Q&A feature of Zoom.

COURSE COORDINATOR

Molly McClintock

Feb 22. Expedition to Patagonia, Chile: Glaciers and Climate Change

In 2019, students and faculty from Radford University trekked to the Northern Patagonian Ice Field in southern Chile. This presentation will follow the 10-day trip from beginning to end as students analyzed glacial ice loss due to warming climate, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), and preservation of glacially fed rivers, and discovered the joys of the mate tea ritual around the campfire.

Beth McClellon is a professor in the geology department at Radford University.

Mar 1. Oral Traditions in Appalachian Folk Culture

This session will include lecture, examples, and discussion of our region's oral folklore, including vocabulary, dialect, proverbs, riddles, jokes, folk tales, and folk legends. The program will conclude with a few traditional folk songs.

Ricky Cox retired from Radford University after 30 years of teaching English and Appalachian Studies. He is a co-editor of *A Handbook to Appalachia: An Introduction to the Region* (2006) and co-author, with the late Frank Webb, of *The Water-Powered Mills of Floyd County, VA: Illustrated Histories, 1770–2010*.

Mar 8. Chocolate Key Cryptography—A Delicious Way to Send Secret Messages

Cryptography requires a scrambled message and a key. Public key cryptographic systems are not secretive but are easy to learn, fun, interactive, and delicious.

Bud Brown joined the math faculty at Virginia Tech in 1969 and retired in 2017 as Alumni Distinguished Professor of Mathematics. His research has been in number theory (the study of numbers and number patterns) and its applications (including the creation of public key cryptography).

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

6 weeks: Feb 22, Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Zoom

Unlimited enrollment

Course fee: \$35

Mar 15. Bear Home Movies

As part of a larger project studying carnivores in the Appalachians of Virginia, Dr. Marcella Kelly placed GPS collars mounted with video cameras on black bears in our region. She will share what the team learned about bear diets, and predation and other bear behaviors. Travel along with a bear or two and see how they spend their days.

Marcella Kelly is a professor in the department of fish and wildlife conservation at VT. In addition to bears, her work focuses on coyotes in Virginia and jaguars in Belize.

Mar 22. Settling Refugees: The Blacksburg Experience

Beginning in 2016, a group of volunteers began inviting refugees to settle in Blacksburg. This involved coordinating volunteers and funding to provide housing, education, transportation, health care, and so much more. To date, ten families have re-settled into our community. Scott will share their stories and the story of the local refugee group.

Scott Bailey is a professor in the department of computer and electrical engineering at VT. He helped found the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership in 2016 and continues to lead its efforts.

Mar 29. Inside/Outside Art

Charlie Brouwer has been making and exhibiting art for over 50 years—indoor and outdoor sculptures, drawings, large scale installations, and projects. He'll show and tell about his lifelong wandering search for beauty, truth, and goodness.



10. Foundations of Financial Literacy

This course seeks to help students gain a strong understanding of the basics of investing, develop a stronger understanding of their own financial situation, and enable them to communicate at a higher level with financial professionals on advanced topics that impact them. During the first week, we will go over basic concepts such as how to read an investment statement and recognize the fees you are paying. In the second and third classes, we discuss more advanced topics including asset allocation strategies, charitable giving, and transferring wealth to your children.

TOPICS

- Understanding basic financial terminology
- How to read your investment statement
- How to recognize hidden fees you might be paying and the impact they have
- What to look for and what to avoid when working with a financial professional

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

3 weeks: Mar 1, 8, 15

Zoom

Class limit: 25

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTORS

Paul French, CFS, is a co-founder of Plott & French Financial Advisors. He has broad international experience in senior company management.

Chris French, CFS, worked in banking investments in New York before joining Plott & French Financial Advisors in 2014.

11. Genetically Engineered Animals: Bringing Good Things to Life

This course will discuss the applications of genetically engineered (GE) and cloned animals to human medicine, agriculture, and society. Examples include GE livestock as bioreactors for human pharmaceuticals and as organ donors, GE mosquitoes for disease control, FDA approved food from GE animals, and cloning of livestock and pets.

TOPICS

- Development of genetically engineered animals for use in human medicine, disease control, agriculture, and food.
- The FDA approval process for GE animals developed for these purposes.
- The cloning of animals. If livestock and pets have been cloned, could the woolly mammoth be next?



Mosquito, genetically engineered to control diseases such as Dengue fever, malaria, Zika

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

5 weeks: Feb 22, Mar 1, 15, 22, 29 (skip Mar 8)

Zoom

Class limit: 25

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Eric Wong is the John W. Hancock Professor of Animal Science in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech. He has taught numerous courses in molecular biology, agricultural biotechnology, and animal biotechnology for 31 years at VT. His research area is animal biotechnology with a focus on the molecular and cellular events during hatching of chicks.

12. Modern Africa: Challenges of Nation Building

This course explores the European colonization of Africa (1885–1975) and its division into European spheres of influence following the Berlin Conference (1884–1885). It also explores the African quest for independence and nation building in the 1950s and 1960s and the quest for African unity and regional integration. A general misconception about Africa is that this huge continent is one country. Yet the continent includes 54 countries, differing in language, history, and culture, in part reflecting the European countries that colonized them. Participants will learn about the unique cultures, histories, geography, and political development of African countries and Africa’s development agenda in education and economics.

TOPICS

- Introduction; misconceptions about Africa; precolonial period
- Partitioning of Africa—the Berlin Conference (1884 – 1885)
- Colonial rule (1885 – 1975); quest for independence (1950s – 1960s)
- The quest for nation building and African unity and Africa’s role in the United Nations
- Challenges of achieving African unity through regional integration
- Political agenda for development in education and economics to achieve unity

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

6 weeks: Feb 22, Mar 1, 15, 22, 29, Apr 5 (skip Mar 8)

Hillel at VT, 710 Toms Creek Road
Class limit: 15

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTORS

Josiah Tlou is Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech, where he taught in International Education from 1978 to 2004.

Joseph Mukuni is an Associate Professor and Program Leader for Career and Technical Education in Virginia Tech’s School of Education.

13. Seeing the Story: Graphic Novels, Memoirs, and Journalism

Humans have been telling stories in pictures since the earliest cave drawings. In the 18th century, artists like William Hogarth in England popularized stories in serial paintings. In the 20th century American artists like Jacob Lawrence took up that same challenge to tell the stories of Harriet Tubman, John Brown, and many others. The picture books and comics read by our own generation are extensions of this long tradition.

In recent decades, artists like Art Spiegelman, Chris Ware, Roz Chast, Lynda Barry, Alison Bechdel, and Joe Sacco, working within a genre often associated with superheroes and teen comics, have composed books distinguished by their serious storytelling, comic complexity, and “documentary” vision. This course will explore three remarkable examples of contemporary visual storytelling and in the process expand our appreciation of the genre as a whole.

CLASS SESSIONS and TEXTS

1. Visual Storytelling: Introduction and Context. William Hogarth, *Marriage a la Mode*, a series of 6 paintings and engravings from the 18th century. [Instructor will provide images]
2. Roz Chast, *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast’s graphic memoir about facing her parents’ last days. [\$12.95 new, used much less]
3. Emmanuel Guillbert, Didie Lefevre, and Frédéric Lemercier, *The Photographer: Into War-Torn Afghanistan with Doctors*

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

4 weeks: Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12

CRC, Crescent Room, 2000 Kraft Dr,
Suite 2100

Class limit: 15

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Emerita Professor **Diana George** designed and taught seminars and undergraduate courses in graphic novel, visual communication, and visual theory at Virginia Tech and Michigan Tech.

Without Borders, the moving story documenting a photojournalist’s tour into Afghanistan. [used copies available online as low as \$8]

4. Adrian Tomine, *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Cartoonist*. The story of growing up wanting to do nothing more or less than be a famous cartoonist. [used copies available online for around \$13].

Please acquire the Chast, Guillbert, and Tomine books online or through your local bookstore before the first day of class,

14. Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a community discussion program on world affairs. The Foreign Policy Association develops background information and policy options for eight critical issues facing America and provides text and videos for discussion groups across the country. Participants prepare for class by reading a 10-page overview for each topic in a Briefing Book. Each meeting begins with a 30-minute video with information on the issues. A faculty resource person provides additional information and guides discussion via Zoom Webinar's Q/A option.

Briefing books: available from fpa.org/great-decisions/

E-book version available from online sellers.

Feb 23. Russia

Russia and the United States have many areas of conflict and some possible areas of mutual interest. Arms control, Russian interference in U.S. elections and support of cyberattacks, the status of Ukraine, the fate of opposition politicians in Russia, all continue to be concerning. How will the new administration in Washington approach these issues?

Aaron Brantly, resource person

Mar 2. The Quad Alliance

As part of the U.S. pivot to Asia, the United States has been in dialogue with Japan, Australia, and India in an effort to contain China. Recently, the Quad countries held joint naval exercises in the South Pacific. How effective will the actions of this alliance be?

Paul Avey, resource person

Mar 9. Myanmar and ASEAN

The situation in Myanmar, including the coup by the military in February 2021 and the ongoing human rights crises, coupled with civil resistance by those opposed to the regime, has led to chaos in the Southeast Asian country. How are neighboring countries reacting, and what role will ASEAN play?

Max Stephenson, resource person

Mar 16. Climate Change

The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the United States play in future negotiations on climate?

Todd Schenk, resource person

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

8 weeks: Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Apr 6, 13

Zoom

No class size limit

Course fee: \$35

COORDINATOR

Victoria Cochran

Presented in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, VA

Mar 23. Outer Space

The launch of Sputnik I in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space?

Jack Kennedy, resource person

Mar 30. Biden's Agenda

The new administration in Washington promised to reverse many of the policies of the past administration, especially in foreign policy. How will issues such as climate, the pandemic, and alliances be treated under the Biden administration?

Karen Hult, resource person

Apr 6. Industrial Policy

The current discussion of industrial policy in the United States is not simply about whether or not to support specific companies or industries, but about trust or mistrust of the government and its ability to manage the economy and deal with a rising China. The upheaval in supply chains during the pandemic exposed weaknesses in the international economy. What policies can the United States implement to deal with trade and the economy?

David Bieri, resource person

Apr 13. Drug Policy in Latin America

The issue of migration to the United States from Latin America has overshadowed the war on drugs, which has been underway for decades with little signs of progress. What are the roots and the bureaucratic logic behind today's dominant drug policies in Latin America? Is it time to reconsider punitive drug control policies that disrupt supply chains and punish drug possession?

Ilya Luciak, resource person

15. Intermediate Conversational Spanish

The course is designed to facilitate conversational speech in Spanish. Some classes will be organized around topics of conversation; others will build on short readings and video or music prompts. The introduction of native guest speakers with distinctive Spanish accents will provide a capstone to our efforts. Students should have a modest background in Spanish grammar, knowing, for example, (although perhaps not having perfected) the differences between infinitive [*correr*] and subjunctive verbs [*tenga*]. They should also be comfortable making mistakes in an informal and supportive setting. If these examples and descriptions are vaguely familiar and somewhat appealing, then this is the right course for you!

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

5 weeks: Mar 16, 23, 30, Apr 6, 13

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church,

701 Church St., Westminster Room

Class limit: 8

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Joe Scarpaci has spent more than 100 months of field work in Latin America. He has lived in Chile, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Uruguay, and directed study-abroad programs in Chile and Cuba. He was a full-time faculty member for two years at the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico in Bayamón and since 1990 has visited Cuba 93 times.

16. You Can't Always Get What You Want: Tradeoffs in Food Economics

When we shop at the supermarket, prepare dinner, or dine out at our favorite restaurant, we don't often think about the complexity of policies and production systems that were required to provide the abundance of food choices at affordable prices. This course will provide a brief history and overview of these programs, and their effects on our daily lives. We'll look at programs related to food production, food stamps, and food waste—and we'll discuss broader issues like the relationship between agricultural policy and poverty/inequality in rural America. The course will conclude with a timely case study of how agricultural legislation in Virginia has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

5 weeks: Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Zoom

Class limit: 25

Course fee: \$35

COORDINATOR

Richard Veilleux, Professor Emeritus of the former Department of Horticulture at Virginia Tech.

TOPICS

A History of U.S. Agricultural Policy

Since the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, the federal government has been involved in management and control of agricultural markets. In this talk, we will review the history of agricultural policy and the impacts of selected policies through the lens of economic theory.

Ford Ramsey, Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech

Economics of the Food Stamp Program

This lecture will provide the history of the food stamp program, its current extent, and a prediction of its future impact.

George Davis, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Poverty and Inequality in Rural America

We hear so much about red states and blue states and how rural America is nearly always red. What about poverty—

we know about the ghettos in the cities but poverty also inhabits some of our most idyllic settings. This lecture will discuss its prevalence and its impacts.

Jeffrey Alwang, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Economics of Food Waste

This lecture will examine the evolution of food waste over the last several decades at the United States and global levels, and discuss implications of food waste for the environment, food prices, and food security.

John Bovay, Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech

COVID-19's Impact on Agriculture Law in Virginia

A discussion of the challenges COVID-19 brought to agriculture and the response by Virginia's legislature, state agencies, and local governments.

Jennifer S. Friedel, Assistant Professor of Practice, Agriculture and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech

17. Mah Jongg: A Great Way to Exercise Your Brain

Mah Jongg is a rummy-like game played with tiles rather than cards. The excitement of Mah Jongg lies in the decisions that you will constantly have to make. It is a game both of skill and luck. Mah Jongg is declared by the first player to match 14 tiles to a hand on an official card of standard hands.

The four-week class will begin by introducing you to the tiles, the initial tile-passing sequence, and the rules for the play of the game. You will be playing hands in each class, and experienced players will be available to assist you. Strategies will be introduced as you become more familiar with the game. The class requires no previous knowledge of the game.

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

4 weeks: Mar 2, 9, 16, 23

Blacksburg Community Center,
Game Room

Class limit: 16

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Janet Sawyers learned to play Mah Jongg in 2006. She finds teaching it to others is almost as much fun as teaching a child how to read.

18. Google Suite and All it Has to Offer

Google has become a huge part of the Internet, and Google Suite is available to almost everyone. Google is more than just a search engine. This course will introduce the different parts of the Google Suite and how to use them.

CLASS SESSIONS

1. Communication—Gmail and hangouts
2. Creation—Docs, Sheets and Slides
3. Coordination—sites, groups, and forms; or, depending on the group's preferences, Google Drive

Wednesdays, 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

3 weeks: Mar 23, 30, Apr 6

CRC, Concept Room, 1880
Pratt Dr, Suite 2018

Class limit: 15

Course fee: \$35

COORDINATOR

Kayla McNabb is the head of Instructional Content and Design at Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. student in the Instructional Design and Technology program. She is focused on working with professors to utilize Web 2.0 technologies to teach “Literacy for Life.”

19. Futurism: Considering the Next 100 Years

The future will be shaped by tectonic forces which include birth rates, population demographics, international relations, innovation, and the competition for talent and natural resources. In this course, we will read and discuss *The Next 100 Years*, by George Friedman to envision the world in which your children and grandchildren will live.

CLASS SESSIONS

Using Friedman's book as a guide, we will move decade by decade through expectations for the 21st century.

REQUIRED READING

George Friedman, *The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century*, 2010. <http://www.mysearch.org.uk/website1/pdf/715.2.pdf>. Also available in print, e-book, and audiobook.

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

6 weeks: Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church,
701 Church St., Hatcher Conf. Room

Class limit: 15

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

H. Pat Artis holds degrees in Engineering Mechanics, Computer Science, and Information. For three decades, he assisted major corporations and government agencies in the development of business resilience strategies.

20. The Delight of Chaos: Zen as Buddhism’s Class Clown

Buddhism, a pragmatic religion, points to mindful living. Each branch focuses on an aspect of the Buddha’s life and teachings that brings that mindfulness to life. Zen, though firmly within Buddhism, introduces chaos and the seemingly absurd as its gateway to mindfulness and enlightenment. In the Buddhist circus, Zen says: “Send in the clowns!”

CLASS SESSIONS

- 1–3 Hinayana Buddhism (the small vessel—first manifestation), and Mayayana Buddhism (the large vessel—second manifestation with Humpty Dumpty effect)
- 4 Zen: What is it?

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
 4 weeks: Mar 16, 23, 30, Apr 6
CRC, Concept Room
 1880 Pratt Dr, Suite 2018
 Class limit: 25
Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Russell Gregory taught for 25 years in the Philosophy/Religious Studies department at Radford University. His specialty was narrative analysis of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

21. More Wrongful Convictions: What Seems to be the Problem?

This course explores the issue of wrongful convictions through a series of case studies featured in Netflix documentaries. “When They See Us” is a docudrama about The Central Park Five (about 5 hours long). “The Innocent Man” is a documentary about the wrongful conviction of Ron Williamson, based on the John Grisham book of the same name (about 5 hours long). “The Innocence Files” is a documentary produced for Netflix by The Innocence Project in conjunction with John Grisham that covers several cases of wrongful convictions (9–10 hours long). Students must have access to Netflix and be willing to spend considerable time outside of class watching these programs. The course will conclude with a discussion of the apparent causes of wrongful convictions and possible remedies.

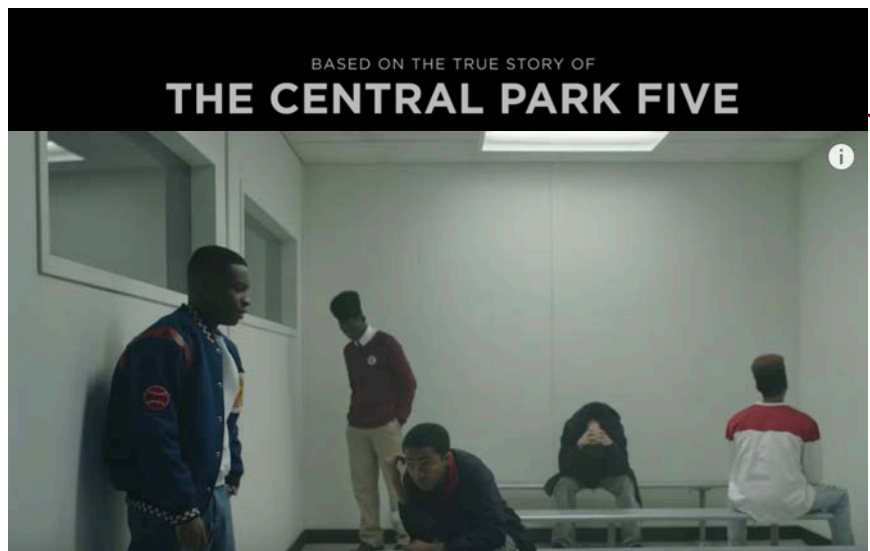
CLASS SESSIONS

- “When They See Us”—2 classes
- “The Innocent Man”—1 class
- “The Innocence Files”—3 classes

Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 6 weeks: Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
CRC, Crescent Room,
 2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 2100
 Class limit: 20
Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Jack Call is Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice at Radford University. He has taught multiple courses for LLI on the Supreme Court and criminal justice.



22. Examining the Influence of *The Prince* on 21st Century Politics

Machiavelli's *The Prince* is perhaps the best-known treatise on politics in the western world. Machiavelli was well aware that his relatively short treatise on politics was playing with fire. When it was finally published, he was denounced as a teacher of evil, but much, if not most, of the modern world regards him as a "realist." Is this judgment a defect in the political science of modernity, or did his contemporaries know something we either do not know or have forgotten? For the American founders, *The Prince* was in their broad conception of political science; both the structure of the Constitution and the office of the Presidency reflect this awareness.

Is Machiavelli still relevant in the 21st century, or is he merely a name in some obscure history book? Why should we care? What does our response to *The Prince* tell us about ourselves?

We will read Machiavelli as one of our preeminent teachers of politics and explore the implications of that teaching. As such, Machiavelli is the true teacher for this course and we are his students.

TOPICS

- Why is *The Prince* so controversial?
- What does Machiavelli teach about politics?
- Is *The Prince* still relevant in the 21st century? How?
- What has been Machiavelli's influence in modern political science, most especially, on the American Constitution?

Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

6 weeks: Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

CRC, Crescent Room,

2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 2100

Class limit: 15

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Sidney (Al) Pearson is Professor Emeritus of political science at Radford University. Trained in both history and political science, Pearson's research interests include the history of political thought, Founding Principles, Progressivism and voting behavior.

RECOMMENDED READING

Please try to use the edition of *The Prince* translated and edited by Angelo M. Codevilla, Yale University Press, or by Harvey C. Mansfield, University of Chicago Press. (Both are available on Amazon.)

23. Listening to Others: How the Mind Interprets Spoken Language

This class focuses on speech and speaker perception—how we understand what other people are saying, and how we draw conclusions about the sort of person they are based on their pronunciation. While the class obviously includes heavy discussion of speech sounds, we also discuss the role that visual, social, and other contextual information has on what we hear—we definitely listen with more than our ears!

As we explore these topics, we will be looking at how listening differs across the lifespan, from birth to old age, and how our personal linguistic histories—the places we grew up, the people we talk to, the languages we speak—uniquely shape the way that each of us perceives language. We will also play with some of the methodologies commonly used in psycholinguistic experiments.

TOPICS

- Infants' acquisition of spoken language from a listening perspective
- Different levels of speech perception, from hearing to recognizing to activating to remembering
- The role of context in speech perception, including visual and social information
- The impact of aging on speech perception
- The role of a listener's linguistic background on speech perception
- Speaker perception, and the role of experience, stereotypes, and ideologies

Spring 2022

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

4 weeks: Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, 14

CRC, Crescent Room,

2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 2100

Class limit: 15

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Abby Walker is an associate professor of linguistics in the English department at Virginia Tech. She has a current NSF-funded project examining cross-dialectal listening in Southwest Virginia. Other projects study how speakers change their pronunciation in different settings and how language attitudes impact what we hear and say.

READING

There is no required reading for this course, though students may be given small hands-on (ears-on!) assignments to do between classes.

24. Demagoguery and Democracy

This course examines demagoguery as one of the most urgent political problems of our time. We will read Patricia Roberts-Miller's *Demagoguery and Democracy*, which offers a guide for understanding how demagoguery works and why demagoguery is so pernicious for democracy. Each class session will begin with a brief lecture, followed by seminar-style discussion.

CLASS SESSIONS

1. What is demagoguery? Defining demagoguery as a type of argument (“us versus them”) and political style of engagement
2. Why is demagoguery dangerous for democracy? Historic case studies of how demagoguery has been used to influence public policy
3. How can we help change a culture of demagoguery? Strategies for changing a culture of demagoguery: what can each of us do today to help change a culture of demagoguery?

REQUIRED READING

Demagoguery and Democracy by Patricia Roberts-Miller. ISBN: 9781615194087. 144 pages. About \$8. Participants are asked to acquire the book and read the first three brief chapters before the initial class meeting.

Fridays, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

3 weeks: Mar 18, 25, Apr 1

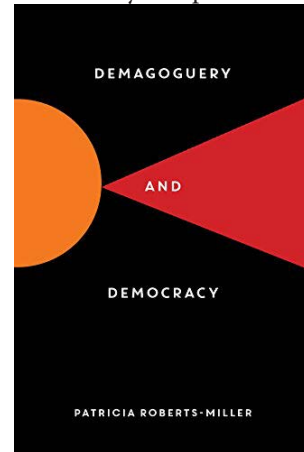
Zoom

Class limit: 15

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Carolyn Commer is a scholar of rhetoric and public argumentation. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Virginia Tech where she teaches courses on rhetorical theory and professional writing.



25. Cooking Chinese Dim Sum with Anne

Dim Sun is the food of Chinese Tea House lunches. The literal translation of Dim Sum is “dot heart” but the poetic meaning is “heart’s delight.” Dim Sun dishes are small items, mostly deep-fried, baked or steamed (but not restricted to these techniques); they are often served with sauces. In a restaurant setting, servers circulate with carts of small plates of single types of items of many sorts. Your bill depends on the number and size of the plates that your table selects.

The course will begin with a Zoom class (1 ½ hours) to introduce general information about Chinese cooking, describe the nature of the dishes we will cook the second week (5 hours at Anne’s house; 3 hours for cooking, 2 hours for lunch). We will make a variety of Dim Sum dishes such as dumplings or pot stickers, steamed buns and deep-fried tidbits (e.g., won tons), a total of about 10 dishes. Recipes will be provided, and about half the recipes will be new ones not featured when this course has been offered before. We’ll end the event with a three-course Dim Sum lunch.

Fridays, 2 sessions

Feb 25, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Zoom**

Mar 4, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

including lunch at the **instructor’s house**

Class limit: 12

Course fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Anne McNabb has been cooking Chinese banquets since graduate school. She has >80 Chinese cookbooks and has used them all to learn about making authentic foods from the many regions of Chinese cuisine.

26. Figures in Watercolor

The human figure is a source of endless inspiration—every pose, every gesture, every embrace or lone figure is different. Whether the figure is young or old, a loner, or among an infinite variety of groups, working, playing, active, resting, demonstrating an emotion or artistically ambiguous, the figure never ceases to intrigue. Because we are figures, we know what can and must be captured in a painting that includes people.

In this class we will begin at the beginning, exploring several methods of seeing and conveying proper proportion. Next, we will use gesture to convey action. And then we will explore how fluid brushstrokes and selectively chosen values work together to create a composition of life itself.

SUPPLIES

A list of supplies will be distributed in advance.

Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
6 weeks: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr 1

Blacksburg Community Center,
Community Room

Class limit: 16

Course fee: \$35

Materials fee: \$35

INSTRUCTOR

Jesi Pace-Berkeley is a Professional Fellow of the Virginia Museum of Fine Art and Artist in Residence at the Don and Catherine Bryan Cultural Series, Outer Banks.

Field Trips

27. Welcome to Blacksburg's Workshop—All the Tools You Need for Your Wood, Metal, or 3-D Printing Project

Have you always wanted to have access to new and special tools for creating 3-D, wood, or metal projects but have never had the right equipment? Blacksburg's new non-profit makerspace, Hacksburg in the Corporate Research Center, may be a great way to pursue your creative ambitions. In this 3-hour Saturday orientation, class attendees will have the chance to explore the capabilities of Hacksburg with member volunteers who will demonstrate the use and capability of the equipment, show you examples of what can be created, and describe how you might become involved. The shop has three main sections: woodworking, metalworking, and laser cutting/3D printing. Available equipment includes table saw and woodshop tools, metal and wood lathes, laser cutter, and FDM and Resin 3D printers. Once you become a member, you can sign up for a variety of classes and join a group of people who love to create and tinker. Visit the Hacksburg website to learn more about this unique Blacksburg resource: <https://hacksburg.org>

Saturday, Mar 19, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Corporate Research Center,
1872 Pratt Drive, Suite 1620

Trip limit: 15

Fee: \$25



28. Brush Mountain Park *Co-sponsored by the New River Land Trust*

In 2018, the New River Land Trust (NRLT) received a \$1.2 million grant to purchase two undeveloped properties comprising 552 acres on Brush Mountain. The New River Land Trust worked with local trail builder Eastern Trail Company and community volunteers coordinated by the Poverty Creek Trails Coalition to build the McDonald Hollow Trails.

Our guides for this nearby field trip will be John Eustis from the New River Land Trust and trail builder, John Carnrike. We'll learn the history of this property, owned for many generations by the McDonald family, and hear about its mining heritage. The group can test parts of the newly created 6.7-mile McDonald Hollow Trail System, now open for mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. Development of two additional properties is underway.

This field trip includes walking uphill on uneven terrain and is not recommended for those with mobility issues. Wear clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather and a short hike on forested trails.

Park at Heritage Trail Parking, 2300 Glade Rd, Blacksburg, to consolidate cars and then proceed to nearby Brush Mountain Park.

29. McDonalds Mill in Catawba Valley

Join New River Valley historian, April Martin, on a visit to the scenic Catawba Valley and the privately owned Yost property. This 289-acre conserved farm contains the historic McDonalds Mill, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks. We'll step inside the restored mill to hear about its history and learn about conservation in the Catawba Valley. The fertile lands along the North Fork of the Roanoke River have for centuries supported human inhabitants. As early Americans settled farther west after the Revolutionary War, existing trails became heavily traveled roads where service industries such as mills helped small communities evolve. McDonalds Mill helps tell that interesting history.

This visit involves walking on uneven terrain, steps into and inside the old mill building, and standing for the presentation. It is not recommended for those with mobility or balance issues. Wear clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather. The mill is not a heated structure.

Participants should drive their own vehicle to the property and park on grass.

30. Walking Tour of Downtown Christiansburg

Architectural styles, like fashion, are an indicator of culture, just as national business trends were important economic drivers throughout much of our local history. Join Sherry Joines Wyatt, curator at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History Center, on a walking tour through the heart of Downtown Christiansburg, which will serve as a learning lab for history. You'll see how the town participated in national trends of architecture and business as illustrated by buildings, monuments, and sites dating from 1853 through the early 1960s. The tour will be supplemented with historic photographs from the museum's collection and there will be plenty of opportunity for questions and answers.

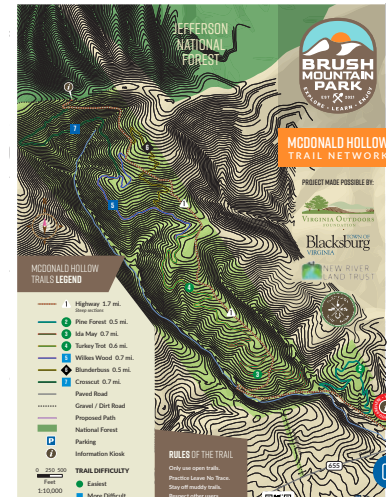
Participants will meet in Downtown Christiansburg at the corner of Hickok and West Main St. in front of Great Road on Main, located at 100 West Main Street (across the street from Christiansburg Presbyterian Church). Participants will be walking several blocks so dress accordingly.

Monday, Apr 11, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Meet at Heritage Trail Parking

Trip limit: 12

Fee: \$25



Monday, Apr 18, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Meet at Mill Site

Catawba, VA, State Route 785
about 10 miles east of Blacksburg

Trip limit: 12

Fee: \$25



Tuesday, Apr 26, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Meet at Great Road on Main,

Christiansburg

Trip limit: 20

Fee: \$15

Montgomery Museum
OF ART & HISTORY

Special Events: A Free Member Benefit

Both Zoom and in-person events are available for Spring 2022. You may register for as many of the free events as you plan to attend.

Free Friday Lectures by Zoom

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

4 sessions: Feb 25, Mar 18, Mar 25, Apr 8

Register for each one separately. Unlimited enrollment.

31. Feb 25. “...And Diverse Others,” the Archaeology of the Angela Site at Jamestown

Over the past few years, the Jamestown Rediscovery team has completed the excavations at the Angela site, the location where one of the first Angolan women arrived in August of 1619. Located within view of James Fort, the site was excavated with funding from a Civil Rights Initiative grant in conjunction with the Colonial National Historical Park, National Park Service. The excavations were supported by tours, first-person programming, lectures, and most recently, exhibits and publications. The Jamestown Rediscovery team spent three years excavating the buildings and landscapes of one of our nation’s most sacred sites, once lost to history. Join David Givens, Jamestown Rediscovery’s Director of Archaeology as he reveals the current findings that are changing our understanding of Jamestown and the role that it played as a founding narrative in African-American history.

David Givens was raised on a farm in Blacksburg, Virginia, where his passion for archaeology started at an early age. He began his career in historical archaeology in the Chesapeake region, joined the Jamestown Rediscovery Team in 2001, and now serves as the Director and Senior Archaeologist.



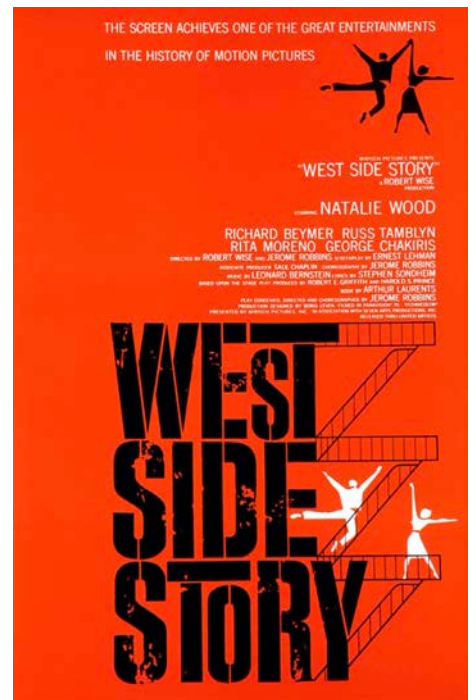
SERIES COORDINATOR

Pat Hyer

32. Mar 18. *West Side Story*

West Side Story, a retelling of Romeo and Juliet in a world of urban gang violence, revolutionized the Broadway musical in terms of its plot, music, and integration of dance. The 1957 play was made into an award-winning film musical in 1961 and can now be seen in a new film directed by Steven Spielberg. This talk by musical aficionado, Dan Sherman, will view the musical’s creation, discuss its innovations, and describe its performance history using a mix of audio and video clips, including those featuring the work’s creators—Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Jerome Robbins, and Arthur Laurents.

Dan Sherman is a retired economist who found his passion in teaching adult education courses on theatre and opera to a wide variety of groups throughout the Washington D.C. area and Williamsburg.



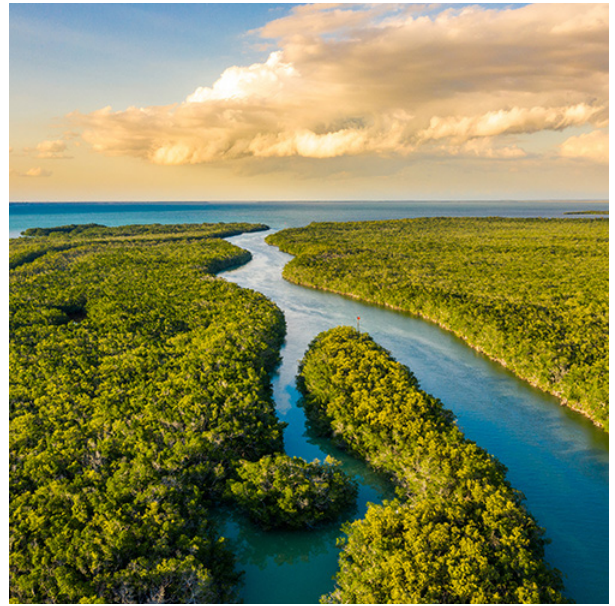
33. Mar 25. The Everglades and Beyond: Florida's Natural Treasures

The nature of Florida is unlike any other in the United States. Deciduous forests give way to subtropical wetlands, savannahs, and emerald palm-lined beaches. Join interpretive naturalist and virtual tour leader Keith Tomlinson on a journey around the best of Florida, highlighting great places to hike, swim, and camp.

His discussion spans geology, plant geography, shells, and birding in some of the state's best- and least-known conserved parklands. These natural treasures illustrate great challenges and victories in the quest to conserve Florida's biodiversity.

Keith Tomlinson

managed Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia from 1998 to 2020 before his retirement. He worked as an interpretive naturalist and natural resource manager over forty years and studied wilderness areas and botanical gardens in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Australia, the Americas, and Europe. He now serves as a popular tour guide for Smithsonian Associates Travel.



34. Apr 8. What Is the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and Why Is It Important?

Virginia Tech is creating a bold new vision and site for graduate education in computer science and computer engineering in Alexandria, Virginia. The Innovation Campus will unite industry, government, and academia in dynamic project-based learning and research to shape the way emerging technologies influence society, driving a new era for the metro area's tech ecosystem.

Our talk by one of the Innovation Campus leaders will walk us through the origin of the new campus as part of the Commonwealth of Virginia's successful bid to attract Amazon's HQ2 to Northern Virginia. And we'll learn about the innovative ideas, public and private collaborations, and architecture that will define this major venture for Virginia Tech that intends to set a new standard for graduate education and research.



In-Person Special Events

The following special events are free to LLI members; registration is required.

35, 36. Enjoy Free Audio Books, eBooks, and Magazines on Your Devices

Two in-person sessions, choose one. Thursday, March 10

- 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. – Android Devices
- 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Apple Devices

Blacksburg Library Community Room

200 Miller Street, Blacksburg

In-person; limit 10 per session

For both sessions, you will need:

- A Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library card in good standing
- OverDrive's Libby app downloaded in advance

Library experts will teach you how to read eBooks and magazines, and listen to audiobooks, all for free with OverDrive's Libby app and your library card.

The library offers 'book-a-librarian' appointments for one-on-one help before the class with accessing the app store to download OverDrive's Libby app.

Morning session for Android devices

Bring your Android device (such as a Samsung, LG, Nexus) to the 10:30-12:30 session. Your device will need to have at least Android 5.0 (Fire OS 5.0 for Kindle Fires) to use the Libby app; download OverDrive's Libby app from the Google Play Store (Amazon App store for Kindles). You will need your Google account and password.

Afternoon session for Apple devices

Bring your Apple device (such as an iPad, iPhone, iPod) to the 2:30-4:30 session. Your device will need to have at least iOS 9.0 to use the Libby app; download Libby from the App Store. You will need your Apple ID and password.

38. A Conversation with Edgar Meyer and the Scottish Ensemble

Thursday, Mar 31, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Moss Arts Center, Street and Davis Performance Hall, Ellen Fife Theatre

Limit: 50

Members of the U.K.'s leading chamber orchestra, the Scottish Ensemble, and multi-Grammy Award-winning bassist, Edgar Meyer, come together for wide-ranging conversation on collaboration and composition, before their performance that evening. Viewing this event as a livestream will also be available.

Presented by the Moss Arts Center

37. How Do We Know What Works and What Doesn't in Medicine?

Thursday, March 17, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Warm Hearth Village Center

Limit: 50

This event is open to Warm Hearth residents.

Although scientific knowledge is durable and reliable, it is not set in concrete nor is it perfect. New evidence can upend our long-standing understandings and medical best practices. So how does medical science evolve and how do we evaluate new evidence? In this talk, we'll review the hierarchy of medical research from animal studies to the gold standard "randomized controlled trials," and we'll explore why observational studies have misled us in the past. We'll define terms like "placebo effect" and "confirmation bias," and learn why we need to be skeptical of advertised claims of "clinically proven." Join us for this talk on how to be a better-informed consumer of medical information.

Larry Cox is a retired board-certified cardiologist who recently moved to the New River Valley.

39. How to Drive Long Trips in an Electric Car

Monday, Apr 4, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Warm Hearth Village Center

Limit: 40

This event is open to Warm Hearth residents.

People often question the feasibility of driving long-range Battery Electric Cars (BEVs) on long trips. The short answer is that it can be done very comfortably with a full-battery range greater than 250 miles and an extensive infrastructure of fast-charging stations around the country.

We'll start by talking about strategies for driving long distances in a Tesla, which has had a decade's lead over other car companies in developing BEVs and establishing an extensive network of Superchargers. Other BEV-charging networks, such as Electrify America, are well underway, although they do not match the Tesla network yet.

We'll also cover the currently available, affordable, long-range BEVs and answer your questions about owning and driving an electric car.

David Roper, retired VT faculty member and department head of physics, is the NRV's expert on electric vehicles.

Spring 2022 Registration



There are three ways to register this fall beginning at **10:00 a.m., Monday, February 7:**

- Online with a credit card *****best option*****
- On the phone using a credit card
- Walk-in or mail-in with credit card information or check

Please note that many classes have limited seats available. Early registration is recommended.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Familiarize yourself with the courses and events before logging in to register. Note your preferences and have additional choices identified in case your preferred courses are sold out. You will have the opportunity to add your name to a wait list for sold-out courses at the end of the registration process.

Online registration opens **Monday, February 7 at 10:00 a.m.**

To register, go to the LLI homepage, www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/, select **REGISTER**, click on the + sign to expand the online registration instructions, scroll down, and click on the **Register Online** button to begin your registration.

1. Login page:

- a. If you have an account, select **I have an account already** and enter your user name and password. Select **Login**. If you have forgotten either or both of these, click on “Forgot User Name” or “Forgot Password.” If you have forgotten your user name, your user name will be emailed to you. If you have forgotten your password, you will be sent a link to reset your password (the link expires after four hours). Please make a note of this information for easy retrieval in the future.
- b. If you are new to LLI, select **New User**. You will be asked to choose your user name, enter your information, select **Register**, and follow the directions.

2. Membership page: Spring term membership is required (annual membership is no longer available). No action is required on this page. Scroll to the bottom and **Continue**.

3. Course and Event Selection page: select your classes by using the dropdown box and selecting “1” next to each desired class and/or event. When you have completed all your selections, click **Continue**.

If a desired class is “sold out,” you will be offered an opportunity to add your name to the wait list at the end of the registration process.

4. Additional Information page: respond to the required questions and click to agree that you will not share any Zoom links.

5. Review and Pay page: review your course selections. Select your payment method, agree to the policy statements, then select **Pay and Register**.

6. Credit Card page: enter your credit card information as required.

7. Receipt and Confirmation page: the receipt will include confirmation of your courses and events. Zoom links, if needed, will be sent by email at a later date.

PHONE REGISTRATION

You may register by phone beginning at 10:00 a.m. on February 7. Please call 540-231-5182. You will need to give your credit card information to the registrar.

WALK-IN OR MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

A printed registration form can be downloaded in pdf format from the LLI website beginning February 2. Mail the completed form with your check or credit card information to the LLI Registrar, Continuing and Professional Education, Virginia Tech Mailcode 0272, 702 University City Blvd, Blacksburg, VA 24061. The registration form and payment information may be dropped off at CPE **beginning at 10:00 am, February 7. Early registrations will not be accepted.**

NEED HELP?

Please contact CPE Registration at 540-231-5182. You will be routed to someone who can take your registration or assist with technical problems. Leave a detailed message with contact information if no one is available to answer your call.

Fees and Policies



LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
at VIRGINIA TECH™

FEES

Spring term membership is \$50. (An annual membership option is no longer available.) You **must** be a member to register for a course and to participate in free special events.

LLI courses are \$35 per course for classes of three or more sessions. Fees for field trips and special class experiences vary. Some courses require an additional materials fee or purchase of a textbook or supplies. Additional fees or costs are noted in the course description. Special events are free to members.

FEE WAIVERS

The Lifelong Learning Institute is committed to accessible and affordable educational opportunities for members. Requests for fee waivers should be addressed to the LLI Registrar, phone 540-231-4364. All requests are confidential.

COURSE AND EVENT WAIT LISTS

If a desired course is full, you will have the opportunity to add your name to a wait list at the end of the registration process. You may also call the LLI Registrar (540-231-4364) to put your name on the wait list. If an opening occurs, wait listed members will be contacted in order.

GUESTS

LLI courses are intended for LLI members and official partner organizations only. LLI students are not permitted to share Zoom access links for courses or special events with any unregistered person.

TO ADD A COURSE OR EVENT

If you are already registered for the term and wish to add another course, please contact the LLI Registrar at 540-231-4364 or heidil@vt.edu for assistance. If the course is not full, it may be added to your schedule.

TO DROP A COURSE OR EVENT

If you need to drop a course before it has begun or an event for which you registered, please notify the LLI Registrar (231-4364 or heidil@vt.edu).

REFUNDS

Membership fees are not refundable. However, if LLI cancels a course for any reason and the member has not enrolled for any other activity, the membership fee and the course fee may be refunded.

A member must cancel enrollment one week prior to the first session of the class to receive a refund of the course fee.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

All schedule changes and last-minute class cancellations will be communicated by email from the Class Assistant (or Instructor). Email is our primary means of communication. Please check your email regularly.

MAKEUP CLASSES

If a makeup class is scheduled because of a cancellation, you will be notified by email of the date and time.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are an individual with a disability and desire accommodation or you have questions about the physical access provided at a location, please contact the LLI Registrar at 540-231-4364 or contact us by email at lifelonglearning@vt.edu at least 14 days in advance of the start of class or the event.

Learning with Zoom: A Member Guide



What is Zoom?

Zoom is a video conferencing software application that allows you to see and hear others in an engaging, interactive way.

How do I join a class in Zoom?

You will receive a Zoom link for your upcoming LLI at VT class(es) in an email about one week prior to your first class meeting, and in a reminder email prior to each class meeting. Click on the link (or copy and paste the link into your web browser). You will use the same link for every class session. You can attend a class session using your laptop or desktop (Windows or Mac), tablet, or smartphone (iPhone or Android).

If you haven't used Zoom before...

You can download the free Zoom application on your computer/laptop or device either by clicking on the link in a meeting invitation or by visiting zoom.us/download. If you are using the Zoom website, select Zoom Client for Meetings if you have a computer or laptop (either Apple or Windows). If you have a phone, iPad, or tablet, scroll down and select Zoom Mobile Apps.

What equipment do I need?

At the most basic level, all you need to use Zoom is a smartphone. However, if you have access to a computer or mobile device you can use the full capabilities of Zoom.

The following equipment will enhance your experience but is NOT necessary:

- **Web camera:** A camera will increase your connection with your instructor and your peers by allowing you to see each other face-to-face. If you do not have access to a web camera, you will still be able to see the instructor. Cameras are built into most computers and phones, and you probably don't need a separate one. But use your preferences/settings to be sure it is turned on.
- **Headsets/earbuds/airpods with microphone.** These will let you hear and/or be heard more clearly. This does not need to be fancy equipment; it can be the same as the headphones you might use with your phone.
- **Charger:** Charging your device before and/or during class will ensure that you do not have an unexpected power outage interrupting your learning.

Help is available

Go to tinyurl.com/lli-vt-zoom to find Zoom Basics training along with additional tips and tricks to make your Zoom experience more enjoyable.

A Zoom Class Assistant will be assigned to every Zoom class to help class members with the technology as well as with other class management activities. If you're experiencing trouble connecting to Zoom, first contact your Zoom Class Assistant. You can also call 540-231-4364 or email heidil@vt.edu.

The Tech Support Team

Carolyn Meier, Carolyn Rude,
Diana George, Sandy Hagman

Photo by Mary Ann Johnson



Volunteer!

The Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech thrives on the contributions of its volunteers. Please consider joining the ranks of those who contribute time, service, and expertise. Send a note with your interest to lifelonglearning@vt.edu or complete the volunteer interest form on the LLI website.

TEACHING

We welcome your suggestions for courses, lectures, and programs. Send your ideas directly to the Program Committee Chair, Pat Hyer (hyerp@vt.edu). We also invite you to teach a course in an area of your own expertise. Complete and submit the course proposal form online (under the Volunteer tab of the LLI website, www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/).

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT: Class Assistants

We seek and train volunteers to serve as class assistants. Responsibilities may include distributing classroom information, setting up and restoring the room, introducing the instructor, and assisting with technology. Class assistants receive Zoom training to support online learning.

COMMITTEE WORK: Program, Membership, Instructional Support, Social Events, Finance

We actively recruit new members to serve on our five LLI committees: Program, Membership, Instructional Support, Social Events, and Finance.

OCCASIONAL ASSISTANCE

We seek volunteers for a variety of tasks that do not require sustained commitment. Let us know, for example, if you have newsletter writing / editing skills, if you could take photographs of LLI events, or help out with classroom AV.

By their effort and talents, volunteers create the spirit and shape the experience of LLI. We look forward to welcoming newcomers into our vibrant community of support.



Volunteers: Penny Tully, Phyllis Eschenmann, Bev Walters

Photo by Pat Hyer

Donate!

Support the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech

LLI has become an important part of the quality of life for retirees in the New River Valley and an effective outreach program for Virginia Tech. Your support will allow the LLI at Virginia Tech to grow this important community resource.

The Lifelong Learning Institute is an entity of the Division of Outreach and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. All gifts to LLI (excluding membership and course/event-related fees) are fully tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Designated gifts are received and managed by the Virginia Tech Foundation for the purpose of growing and sustaining the Lifelong Learning Institute.

Payment Options

Online Please go to [Virginia Tech Foundation / LLI Giving Page](#). Complete the form. Be sure to specify "Lifelong Learning Institute" in the "Designation" box.

By check Make checks payable to Virginia Tech Foundation, Lifelong Learning Institute in Memo Line.

Mail to: Virginia Tech Foundation, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061