



**SENIOR
PROFESSIONALS**
Illinois State University

Providing Lifelong Learning and University Engagement



HYBRID CLASSES

Fall 2025 / Winter 2026

Academy of Seniors & Mornings with the Professors

seniorprofessionals.illinoisstate.edu

ACADEMY OF SENIORS

1. THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF L. FRANK BAUM'S OZ AND ITS ADAPTATIONS

September 9, 16, 23, 30
(Tuesdays), 9:30-11:30 am

L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is considered to be the great American fairy tale. The children's novel remains popular and is regularly revised and reinterpreted for contemporary audiences.

September 9: L. Frank Baum and his Wonderful Wizard of Oz

This session will provide an overview of the life and multi-faceted career of Baum as an actor, author and early filmmaker as well as the Baum/Bloomington connection. The class will examine *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the first book in his popular Oz series for children.

September 16: Over the Rainbow: MGM film version of *The Wizard of Oz*

We will consider the various ways Victor Fleming's *The Wizard of Oz* modified Baum's novel into a family film that made Judy Garland, as Dorothy and Margaret Hamilton, as the Wicked Witch of the West, iconic movie characters.

September 23: The Dark Versions of Oz

This session will examine adaptations of Oz that are geared for adolescent and adult readers focusing on Philip José Farmer's science fiction, *A Barnstormer in Oz* (1982) and Gregory Maguire's *Wicked* (1995), a dystopian representation of Oz.

September 30: Defying Gravity: Two adaptations of Gregory Maguire's *Wicked*

Learn about Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman's Broadway musical, *Wicked* (2003) and the Jon Chu's recent film adaptation (2024) of the long-running Broadway musical. Both versions of Oz are loosely based on Gregory Maguire's *Wicked* and trace how Elphaba becomes the Wicked Witch of West, from her point of view.

Jan Susina, Emeritus Professor of English,
Illinois State University

Classes will be held at Illinois State University's
Alumni Center, 1101 N Main St, Normal

A limited number of scholarships are available.
To inquire, call (309) 438-2160 and ask for Laura.

FORMS OF PARTICIPATION:

1. **Attend in-person** at Illinois State University's Alumni Center, 1101 N Main St, Normal
2. **Watch online** via Zoom.

Register online at seniorprofessionals.ilstu.edu or call (309) 438-2160.

Zoom participants will receive a Zoom link a week prior to their classes and again the morning of their classes.

Fees:

- **\$35 for Senior Professional members**
- **\$45 for non-members**
- **\$15 for single-session** (in-person only, payable at door).

For in person, pricing is **per person**. For ZOOM, one registration **per household**.

Price includes:

- Four 2-hour sessions (one Academy of Seniors class) **or**
- Five 2-hour Mornings with the Professors lectures

2. ENGAGED PERSUASION IN A POST TRUTH WORLD

September 29, October 1, 6, 8
(Mondays/Wednesdays), 1:30-3:30 pm

Learn the dynamics of persuasion, including important source, receiver and message components while also exploring the effects of persuasive communication on receivers' attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviors.

Based on Dr. Hunts's new book, co-authored with colleague Keven R. Meyer, Hunt will address new media, engaged citizenship and deconstructing messages in a post-truth world to deepen attendees' understanding of persuasion.

Themes will include the application of contemporary persuasion theory and research to the post-truth era, the influence of new media on persuasive communication and how to use persuasion to become civically engaged and advance the common good.

Stephen Hunt, Professor, School of
Communication, ISU

Your registration gives consent for photos taken at programs to be used for advertising and/or publicity purposes by ISU, its licensees and/or member organizations; you waive all claims for any compensation for such use or for damages.

3. ANCIENT BRITAIN: FROM THE ICE AGE TO THE COMING OF ROME

October 23, 30, November 6, 13
(Thursdays), 1:30-3:30 pm

Stonehenge, Avebury, Maiden Castle—these are the sites that come to mind when considering what Winston Churchill called “the Birth of Britain.” This class will examine British prehistory, emphasizing the latest findings, debates, theories and controversies. Learn about various archaeological sites, including Boxgrove, the Cheddar Caves, Grimes Graves, Silbury Hill and others.

The class will demonstrate changing ways of life revealed by archaeology, from Ice Age hunters through Neolithic farmers and Bronze Age warriors to the Iron Age chieftains encountered by Julius Caesar in 55 BC. The class will distinguish between rational theories and romantic dreams—and with topics like the Celtic heritage and the significance of Stonehenge, there are plenty of both.

Fred Christensen, *Former History Instructor, University of Kentucky and Assistant Professor, Military Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

4. REIMAGING MODERNISMS: SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

January 14, 21, 28, February 4
(Wednesdays), 1:30-3:30 pm

In Western art history, modern art is often traced to the mid-19th century, shaped by modernization, industrialization and a rejection of academic traditions. Movements from realism to impressionism and expressionism marked a steady shift away from traditional art forms.

In contrast, modern art in South and Southeast Asia emerged under colonial rule and during nation-building in the early to mid-20th century. Here, modernism was driven by a search for identity, shaped by both external influences and local traditions.

This course will explore global modernisms through case studies from India, Indonesia and the Philippines, examining how art responded to colonialism and nationhood.

Katherine Bruhn, *Assistant Professor, Global Art and Visual Culture, Wonsook Kim School of Art, ISU*



CLASSROOM JOURNEY

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT LAURENT HOUSE AND ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS, ROCKFORD

September 25 (Thursday)
7 am – 6 pm

\$95 for members | \$115 for non-members

The Kenneth and Phyllis Laurent House is one of only 11 hemicycle Usonian in Frank Lloyd Wright's extensive portfolio of work. It is also the only home designed by Wright to be wheelchair accessible. In the fall of 1948, the Laurents commissioned Wright to design a home that would allow Ken, a paraplegic, to move about freely in his wheelchair.

Forty years before the Americans with Disabilities Act, Wright created a blueprint for an open-plan, single-story home that could accommodate Ken's unique needs. In reflecting on the functionality of

his home, Ken shared, “This house helps me focus on my capabilities, not my disabilities.” This site is considered to be one of the most well-preserved Wright homes in existence.

Also tour the beautiful Anderson Japanese Gardens, a peaceful outdoor setting that has been carefully designed and patiently pruned according to aesthetic principals to create a work of natural art that inspires calm, renewal, discovery and an invigorated soul. Rated as one of North America's highest quality Japanese gardens for more than a decade, enjoy stunning landscapes of streams, waterfalls, winding pathways, bridges and koi-filled ponds. A flat path option is available upon request.

Anderson Japanese Gardens is an authentic Japanese Garden maintained by the highest standards. With grace, elegance and gentle awareness it exemplifies the Japanese cultural heritage of respectful humility in service to people of all cultures. Three essential elements used to create a Japanese garden are stone, which forms the structure of the landscape; water, representing life-giving force; and plants, which provide the color and changes throughout the seasons.

Lunch provided by Fresco at the Gardens.

Cost includes transportation, site fees, snacks and lunch.

The bus will depart from ISU's Office of Parking and Transportation lot, 709 N. Main St., Normal.

MORNINGS WITH THE PROFESSORS



October 3, 10, 24, 31, November 7

(No class October 17)

(Fridays) 9:30-11:30

Classes will be held at ISU's Alumni Center,
1101 N. Main St., Normal, IL

CHALLENGES TO THE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN: ABUNDANCE OR FUTURE SCARCITY?

October 3

Why does Illinois agriculture look the way it does? How do world events and other countries play a role in our Midwest food production system? What is the long-term outlook for food production? What affects supermarket food prices the most? Why are some foods so much cheaper than others? Are global food supplies becoming scarcer over time or are they more abundant? How is climate change affecting food availability and prices? How do Illinois farmers fit into this puzzle? Come ready to learn about the recent trends and studies.

Mike Doherty, *Independent Consultant*

TRANSFERS, NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS (NIL) AND THE NCAA: A NEW ERA OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

October 10

Welcome to the NCAA's Transfer and NIL Era. Recent NCAA legislative decisions have provided college athletes the freedom to transfer institutions without penalty and unprecedented access to the seemingly endless flow of money in college athletics via NIL agreements. This presentation will provide insight into the legal and legislative pressures that led to radical changes to their amateurism rules over the past decade. Additionally, the presentation will provide updates on any changes to NIL and transfer regulations based upon the outcomes from *House v. NCAA*. Kramer will also discuss the sustainability of the current intercollegiate athletics model and the implications of proposed solutions.

Eric Kramer, *Assistant Professor, School of Kinesiology and Recreation, ISU*

U.S. ELECTIONS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

October 24

The development of the global economy has had far-reaching implications for all countries, as the proportion of global economic activity related to the global economy has surged over the past 50 years

to more than 60%. For the United States, even as a dominant player in world markets, this shift has had implications for elections and, especially recently, U.S. elections have implications for the global economy as well. This session will focus on understanding the key characteristics of the global economy and examining the connections between it and U.S. elections. With both a "bright side" and a "dark side," the global economy has played a role in US politics — and vice versa — for decades, but no more salient than in the last decade. The most recent presidential election underscores both parts of the symbiotic relationship; the implications for the global economy are more significant than ever.

James Scott, *University Professor and Chair, Department of Politics and Government, ISU*

PLACES, PEOPLE AND POLITICS: TRAVELING THE WORLD ON A TANDEM BICYCLE

October 31

In *Innocents Abroad*, Mark Twain wrote, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts." This is amplified when traveling by bicycle. Bicycle touring is unhurried and immersive, which facilitates observations, interactions and conversations that would otherwise be missed. In this presentation Noha Shawki and Julian Westerhout will share their self-supported travels on a tandem bicycle in Cuba, Northern Ireland and Japan, reflecting upon conflicts past and present, people and landscapes. Learn how encounters during those trips have impacted their worldview and their teaching.

Noha Shawki, *Professor, Department of Politics and Government, ISU*

Julian Westerhout, *Instructional Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and Government, ISU*

AMTRAK: A BRIEF HISTORY AND THE FUTURE OF PASSENGER RAIL IN AMERICA

November 7

Since its creation in 1971, Amtrak has struggled to perform to expectations with inconsistent funding, aging infrastructure and outdated rolling stock. However, in 2021 with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Amtrak is on track to be a high performing twenty-first century passenger rail system. Amtrak is striving to meet record demand while delivering mega construction projects, upgrading fleet and serving more places with assistance from state partners. Gain insight into the National Railroad Passenger Corporation board and plans for the future of Amtrak.

Chris Koos, *Director, National Railroad Passenger Corporation Board of Directors, Mayor, Town of Normal*

REGISTRATION #1

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Senior Professionals does not sell or share its e-mail list with anyone outside the university.

Members of Senior Professionals pay a reduced rate to attend classes. To become a member of Senior Professionals and receive the discounted pricing, download a membership form from SeniorProfessionals.ilstu.edu/Membership. Membership forms and payment MUST be processed separately from class registrations.

WALK-INS: Payment for \$15.00 single-sessions (cash or check) will be collected at the door.
No pre-registration will be accepted for walk-ins.

CLASSES

To attend in-person classes, the cost is per person. To attend virtual classes, only one registration per household is required.

	Member (In-Person) \$35	Non-Member (In-Person) \$45	Member (Virtual) \$35	Non-Member (Virtual) \$45
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF L. FRANK BAUM'S OZ AND ITS ADAPTATIONS (all four sessions)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. ENGAGED PERSUASION IN A POST TRUTH WORLD (all four sessions)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. ANCIENT BRITAIN: FROM THE ICE AGE TO THE COMING OF ROME (all four sessions)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. REIMAGING MODERNISMS: SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART (all four sessions)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. MORNINGS WITH THE PROFESSORS (all five sessions)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. CLASSROOM JOURNEY BUS TRIP	Member \$95: _____		Non-Member \$115: _____	
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PAYMENT METHOD To pay online, go to SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu.

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ONLINE: SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu

BY MAIL: Senior Professionals, Illinois State University, Campus Box 8610, Normal, IL 61790-8610

ON-SITE: Conference Services, Illinois State University Alumni Center,
1101 N Main St, Normal, IL, Mon. - Fri., 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

QUESTIONS: (800) 877-1478 or (309) 438-2160, Mon. - Fri., 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

REFUNDS: To receive a full refund for MWP or Academy classes, your registration must be cancelled no later than one week prior to the start date of each class; a \$10 processing fee will be charged after that date. To receive a full refund for the Classroom Journey bus trip, cancellations must be received no later than one week prior to the trip unless there is a wait list and another individual can fill the seat.

JOIN SENIOR PROFESSIONALS AND PAY A REDUCED RATE TO ATTEND CLASSES

Senior Professionals is an organization open to persons of retirement age. No prior affiliation with ISU required. Members select their level of involvement, with opportunities to get involved in a variety of ways, including socializing at special events, attending classes, mentoring students, conducting mock interviews, reviewing resumes and planning programs.

The cost to join is an annual tax-deductible donation of \$125.00 made payable to ISU Foundation. Monies go to support program offerings, expenses and student awards. Members are eligible to receive a Redbird Card, which allows use of Milner Library, Tech Zone computer services, a technology help line and more.

To sign up, download a form at www.SeniorProfessionals.ilstu.edu/Membership or request one at lakowa2@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2160. Membership forms MUST be processed separately from class registrations.



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