



**SENIOR
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Illinois State University

Providing Lifelong Learning and University Engagement



HYBRID CLASSES

Fall 2026 / Winter 2027

Academy of Seniors & Mornings with the Professors

seniorprofessionals.illinoisstate.edu

ACADEMY OF SENIORS

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.

- **\$45 for Senior Professional members**
- **\$55 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

1. THE MESSY HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

September 4, 11, 18, 25 (Fridays)
9:30-11:30 am

Session 1: Discover the intellectual, political and socioeconomic origins of the American Revolution, long before independence was debated or protests against British policies had even commenced.

Session 2: Explore the events of the Seven Years' War starting in 1754 and the "imperial crisis" that precipitated the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

Session 3: Learn about the revolution itself, including a broader reflection on major documents like the Declaration of Independence and Common Sense, in addition to the transatlantic dimensions of achieving American independence.

Session 4: Examine the United States Constitution and the greater place of the American Revolution in the history of the United States and the larger Atlantic World.

Matthijs Tieleman, Assistant Professor of History, Illinois State University

2. ITALIAN EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERIES

October 13, 20, 27 (Tuesdays), November 2 (Monday)
9:30-11:30 am

The Afterlife of a Roman Villa **October 13**

Few scholars would disagree that the Roman Empire in the West ended in the fifth century, but contemporary texts offer conflicting accounts on relations between barbarian tribes and Roman provincials in the West. Scholars rely on ancient authors to generalize about what transformations looked like on a wide scale, but an excellent barometer for assessing the nature of change in the Roman empire is the Roman villa, a fundamental unit of the Roman economy. Through the archaeology of villas, understand how broader economic and social shifts manifested in the Roman landscape.

Kathryn Jasper, Professor of History,
Chair of Latin, Department of Languages,
Literatures and Cultures, ISU

A Million Little Pieces: Unearthing the Past at Valle Gianni **October 20**

At the archaeological site of Valle Gianni near Lake Bolsena, even the smallest fragments can reveal remarkable stories about the ancient past. This presentation will explore how archaeologists use broken pottery, mosaic tesserae, architectural remains and other "little pieces" to reconstruct the lives of the people who once inhabited this landscape. Drawing on recent excavations from the Northwest Bolsena Archaeological Project, the talk will offer a behind-the-scenes look at archaeological fieldwork and the process of transforming scattered evidence into a richer understanding of one small part of Roman Italy.

Lea Cline, Professor of Art History, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, and Fulbright Student Program Advisor, ISU

Living Under Italian Fascism in Primo Levi's The Periodic Table **October 27**

No one has written about the Nazi concentration camps with more understated eloquence and moral clarity than Primo Levi, the Italian chemist and author who survived nearly a year in Auschwitz. In this lecture, Dr. Druker will discuss Levi's *The Periodic Table*, an innovative memoir about his career in chemistry and his youth under Italian

Fascism, including the years 1938-1943 when the antisemitic "Racial Laws" were in effect.

Jonathan Druker, *Professor Emeritus of Italian, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, ISU*

From Gloom to Glam: How the Representation of Italy and Its Culture Changes in Italian American Narratives **November 2**

How did Italy and its culture become "cool" in America? Today Italy is often associated with style, creativity, culinary excellence and cultural prestige, but for the first generations of immigrants early in the 20th century, their heritage was the mark of economic and social backwardness. This negative connotation persisted until post-WWII. Then, Italianness slowly, but steadily, turned from a stigma into a desirable cultural marker. This lecture will explore the transition from gloom to glam in Italian American literature and film and later narratives of Americans of Italian descents who start reconnecting with their heritage and traveling to their ancestral homeland.

Francesco Ferrari, *Instructional Assistant Professor of Italian, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, ISU*

3. ENCOUNTERING THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD: THE HISTORY OF AOTEAROA, MĀORI, AND PĀKEHĀ IN NEW ZEALAND

October 28, November 4, 11, 18 (Wednesdays)
9:30-11:30 am

Session 1: Arrivals: History of Māori and Settler Movements in New Zealand

Session 2: The Treaty of Waitangi: The Meeting Place

Session 3: New Zealand Warriors: A History of the New Zealand Wars and Kiwis at Gallipoli

Session 4: The Waitangi Tribunal: Decolonization, Anti-Colonialism and the Māori

In the fall of 2025, there were reports of a haka, a ceremonial dance in Māori culture taking place in New Zealand's Parliament. The protest within Parliament, led by Te Pati Māori (Māori Party), saw Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke lead her party in one of most well-known hakas, "Ka Mate, Ka Mate" (It is Death, It is Death). For the United States, such legislative action may seem extraordinary or at least part of our distant past and catastrophic relations with indigenous communities. However, for the Māori and Pākehā (people of European ancestry) the haka in Parliament typifies the relationship between the colonizers and

indigenous people of Aotearoa-New Zealand. During the four lectures, Dr. Kapoor will explain why.

Nathan Kapoor, *Asst. Professor of History, ISU*

4. AMERICAN MUSIC

January 12, 14, 19, 21 (Tuesdays/Thursdays)
1:30-3:30 pm

America is often described as the "melting pot" for people who have settled here from throughout the world. One can refer to the music heard today as being from a "musical melting pot". Musical creativity in America began before the colonial times and continues today. The results of this creativity are an amazing and wonderful body of work, including every type of music imaginable: songs, keyboard pieces, symphonies, concerti, film music, electronic music and more! The goal of this presentation will be to examine the sources of music and find out if there is such an entity as "American Music". Surely there must be?

Michael Dicker, *Professor Emeritus of Bassoon, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, ISU*

SPECIAL PROGRAM - IN PERSON ONLY (NO ZOOM) **THE 2026 MIDTERM ELECTIONS: DEMISE OR REVIVAL OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY?**

October 6 (Tuesday)
1:30-3:30 pm

\$15, payable at the door (No pre-registration)

Commentators have stated that the future of American democracy is at stake for the 2026 Midterms. During the Semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence, it is appropriate to consider where the 2026 Midterms indicate American democracy is headed. Will America see a reaffirmation of the principles of the Declaration that "all men are created equal", the power of the "consent of the governed" and the rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"? Dr. Bradley will examine factors that will shape the context for the elections, highlight important races to watch, forecast election results and discuss the significance of those results.

Robert Bradley, *Professor Emeritus, Politics and Government, 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.

MORNINGS WITH THE PROFESSORS



**October 2, 9, 16, 30, November 6 (Fridays)
9:30-11:30 am (No class October 23)**

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

A MID-TERM REVIEW OF AMERICA-FIRST FOREIGN POLICY

October 2

President Trump has long advocated replacing the U.S.-led, rules-based international order with an "America First" foreign policy. The President believes that after winning the Cold War, the U.S. lost its strategic focus, replacing logic with "foolishness and arrogance," which produced "one foreign policy disaster after another." When citing America First foreign policy, Administration officials mean that foreign policy should serve primarily U.S. interests and security. As we approach the halfway point of the Administration's mandate, Dr. Duguid will share several examples to assess the means by which President Trump implements his version of America First as well as the success of those efforts.

Gordon Duguid, *Donald F. McHenry Visiting Professor in Diplomacy and International Relations at ISU*

MATHEMATICS, ART AND NATURE

October 9

Mathematics and art are often intertwined with connections that advance both areas. In many cases they are also influenced by observations from nature. Dr. Plantholt will discuss some of these relations, including the "golden ratio", da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man", the mathematics behind fractal art and some mathematical techniques that were inspired by observations of nature.

Michael Plantholt, *Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, ISU*

THE HISTORY OF THE PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA (PEEWAALIAKI)

October 16

The Confederated Peorias (Kaskaskia, Peoria, Piankashaw and Wea Indians united into a single tribe) originated in the lands bordering the Great Lakes and drained by the mighty Mississippi. They are Illinois or Inohka Indians, descendants of those who created the great mound civilizations in the central United States 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. Discover the deep history

of the Peoria people as well as how they lived in the Central Illinois River Valley, who their allies, friends and relatives were and what led to a long and arduous removal from the state that bears their name.

Logan Pappenfort, *Citizen of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Director of Tribal Relations for the Illinois State Museum and Former Director of Cultural Preservation at the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma*

SHAKESPEARE ON SCREEN

October 30

Discover how Shakespeare's plays have been reimagined across film, television and interactive media, moving from classic film adaptations by directors like Orson Welles, Roman Polanski and Akira Kurosawa to more recent television and digital performances. How does Shakespeare's language get translated into images, and how does new media reshape, not always successfully, familiar themes of power, identity and performance? This talk will also consider different ways audiences engage with these works, from watching to performing, and suggest that Shakespeare continues to work less as a fixed text than as a flexible source for new kinds of storytelling. No prior experience with Shakespeare is necessary; this talk is as much for the curious as for long-time fans.

John Ernst, *Prof Emeritus, Depts of Communication and Film, Heartland Community College*

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, ROUTE 66

November 6

From 1926 to 1985, Route 66 carried heavy traffic from Chicago to Santa Monica, California. That is, until it was completely decommissioned, a seeming death knell for the old road in favor of modern interstates. In the late 1980s there was a resurgence of interest in the once-grand highway that had been relegated to a frontage road in some areas. Today, thousands of people come from all over the world to traverse the 100-year-old road to see the "real America." Terri will examine the heyday, demise and resurrection of the road that refused to die, as well as her own efforts to restore Sprague's Super Service, the 1930s two-story gas station that sits along Route 66 at 305 Pine Street in Normal.

Terri Ryburn, *Route 66 Enthusiast, Writer, Actor, Published Playwright, Small Business Owner and Stand-up Comedian*

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

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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.

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

Member (In-Person) \$45	Non-Member (In-Person) \$55	Member (Virtual) \$45	Non-Member (Virtual) \$55
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| ☐ | 1. THE MESSY HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (all four sessions) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| ☐ | 2. ITALIAN EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERIES (all four sessions) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| ☐ | 3. ENCOUNTERING THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD: THE HISTORY OF AOTEAROA, MĀORI, AND PĀKEHĀ IN NEW ZEALAND (all four sessions) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| ☐ | 4. AMERICAN MUSIC (all four sessions) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| ☐ | 5. MORNINGS WITH THE PROFESSORS (all five sessions) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Total: _____

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☐	4. AMERICAN MUSIC (all four sessions)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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ON-SITE: Conference Services, Illinois State University Alumni Center,
1101 N Main St, Normal, IL, 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 \$15 processing fee will be charged after that date.

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

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.

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