

Fall 2026 Instructor Bios - OLLI at NC State University

Listings are alphabetical by instructor last name.

Course ID	Instance Name	Instance Start Date	Instance End Date	First Name	Last Name	Bio
MCE-LLI-3-447	What Highlanders Lost at Moores Creek Bridge	10/16/2026	10/16/2026	Suzanne	Adair	<i>Suzanne Adair</i> ; The award-winning mysteries of Suzanne Adair bring battles and people of the American Revolution to life; she is the recipient of an Artist Support Grant and a Professional Development Grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County; in 2018, North Carolina's Daughters of the American Revolution appointed her to a state-wide committee formed by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to help share information about and coordinate events of America's 250 th Anniversary.
MCE-LLI-1-374	Central Asia –Sustainable or Failed States?	9/15/2026	10/6/2026	Glen	Anderson	<i>Glen Anderson</i> ; Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison; over 40 years of US and international consulting in economic development, agriculture, water resource management, climate adaptation, and environmental policy; international assignments include work in 50 countries including all of Central Asia and 12 of 15 countries of the Former Soviet Union.
MCE-LLI-3Z-473	Scurvy, She Wrote! The Hidden History of Vitamin Discovery	10/2/2026	10/2/2026	Sarah	Ash	<i>Sarah Ash</i> ; A.B., Biology, Harvard University; M.S., Ph.D., Nutrition, Tufts University; professor emerita in the Department of Food, Bioprocessing, and Nutrition Sciences, NC State; recipient of the UNC System Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the NC State Alumni Distinguished Professor Award, and the USDA Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, among others.
MCE-LLI-1Z-405	The American Diet Throughout History	9/16/2026	10/21/2026	Sarah	Ash	<i>Sarah Ash</i> ; A.B., Biology, Harvard University; M.S., Ph.D., Nutrition, Tufts University; professor emerita in the Department of Food, Bioprocessing, and Nutrition Sciences, NC State; recipient of the UNC System Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the NC State Alumni Distinguished Professor Award, and the USDA Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, among others.
MCE-LLI-3-363	Scams—Identify and Protect Yourself	10/21/2026	10/21/2026	Kristin	Bakerman	<i>Kristin Bakerman</i> ; VP/CO at State Employees Credit Union; 15 years of experience in banking, including member services and lending; Kristin loves teaching financial literacy and sharing her knowledge and experience with others, whether it's every day interactions with members or out in the community.
MCE-LLI-3-448	Inside the State Department: U.S. Diplomacy in Action	10/26/2026	10/26/2026	David	Balton	<i>David Balton</i> ; Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School; he previously served in the White House (2021-2024) and in the U.S. Department of State (1985-2018), attaining the rank of Ambassador in 2006; Ambassador Balton was the chief U.S. negotiator on many international agreements and led numerous international meetings; he chaired negotiations that produced the 2011 Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement, the 2013 Arctic Oil Pollution Agreement, and the 2021 Arctic Fisheries Agreement.
MCE-LLI-3-467	Wearable Technology for Chronic Wound Care	9/16/2026	9/16/2026	Amay	Bandodkar	<i>Dr. Amay Bandodkar</i> ; assistant professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering at NC State; he received his Ph.D. in Nano-engineering from University of California San Diego; he is the recipient of the IEEE Sensors Early Career Award, MIT Technology Review 35 Innovators under 35, Biosensors Young Investigator Award, Metrohm Young Chemist Award, MRS Graduate Student Award, Siebel Scholars Award, Interdisciplinary Research Award, and Undergraduate Research Publication Award.
MCE-LLI-1-419	Rotten Tomatoes' Top Rated Films-Did They Get it Right?	9/15/2026	10/20/2026	Lewis	Beale	<i>Lewis Beale</i> ; film industry reporter for newspapers in New York and Los Angeles; taught journalism at UNC-Wilmington; has written for <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>Newsday</i> , the <i>L.A. Times</i> , <i>The Daily Beast</i> and other magazines and websites; veteran OLLI instructor.
MCE-LLI-3-468	The Lost Colony: Myth and Meaning	10/21/2026	10/21/2026	Talia	Brenner	<i>Talia Brenner</i> ; Ph.D. candidate in Public History, NC State; originally from Maryland, Talia holds a B.A. with honors in History from Brown University; she works as an instructor-of-record in the NC State Department of History, where she has taught undergraduate courses in both U.S. History and Public History; Talia has professional experience in curriculum development, digital history, exhibit development, and museum education for a variety of public history institutions.
MCE-LLI-1-342	The Psalms	9/28/2026	10/19/2026	E. Carson	Brisson	<i>E. Carson Brisson</i> ; Associate Professor of Bible and Biblical Languages, (Ph.D., Th.M., M.Div., B.A.) Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond Va.; Charlotte, NC; Dr. Brisson's primary teaching assignments at Union are biblical Hebrew and Greek; in 2022, he received an award for his essay "A Jail Visit and a Promise to a Mother"; his latest publication is the essay "Stronger Than All Evil Things," in the journal <i>Christian Century</i> ; he enjoys taking long walks with his spouse and their rescue beagle when there is a breeze.
MCE-LLI-3-478	Becoming a Citizen Architect: Auburn University's Rural Studio	10/29/2026	10/29/2026	Jake	Buell	<i>Jake Buell</i> ; Bachelors of Architecture from Auburn University; 5th year thesis student at Auburn University Rural Studio where he worked in a team of 4 students to design and build a house; Jake currently works for a local architecture firm, REdesign.build in Raleigh, NC
MCE-LLI-1-278	Navigating Your Encore Chapter	9/14/2026	10/19/2026	Marcy	Bullock	<i>Marcy Bullock</i> ; for over a decade, Marcy taught Women in the Workforce, Practicing Happiness, Career Exploration, and Professional Development at NC State; she also hosted a personal and professional development podcast with over 50K downloads; honored with the North Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence and the Alumni Society's Outstanding Faculty Award, she holds a Master's in Counseling and certifications in Career Coaching, Gallup Strengths, and Leadership; her career journey took her from California to Australia before settling in Raleigh, NC.
MCE-LLI-3-359	Understanding Dementia with Lewy Bodies	11/9/2026	11/9/2026	Erin	Campbell	<i>Erin Campbell</i> ; Erin's mother died of dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) in 2023; Erin is passionate about helping patients, caregivers and loved ones better understand DLB and be more acutely supported; she owns Campbell Writing and Editing, LLC, through which she contracts with Dr. Andrea Bozoki (UNC) on DLB initiatives; Erin has a Master's degree in Technical Communication, a Master's in Applied Neuroscience and is currently a Neuroscience Ph.D. student at NC State.
MCE-LLI-3-451	History of the JC Raulston Arboretum	9/14/2026	9/14/2026	Dennis	Carey	<i>Dennis Carey</i> ; M.S., Horticulture, NC State; started his career as a software engineer but in 2002 switched careers into horticulture; he has worked in the green industry as an ornamental plant grower and in the public garden world as a taxonomist, database programmer and curator; Mr. Carey has worked at the JC Raulston Arboretum since 2019 and before that worked for 10 years at Juniper Level Botanic Garden.
MCE-LLI-3-463	Kind of Blue: Jazz Legend Miles Davis	10/22/2026	10/22/2026	Virginia	Clark	<i>Virginia Clark</i> ; holds a Ph.D. in English and has previously taught Literature, Writing, and Film at Univ. of MD and Frostburg State Univ.; her publications include <i>Aldous Huxley and Film</i> , <i>What Women Wrote: Scenarios, 1912-1929</i> , articles on film history, and screenplays; she served at the American Film Institute and the Library of Congress; she was also an editor at Simon & Schuster, still does freelance book editing, and is retired as an editor with IBM.

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MCE-LLI-3-452	Fewer Births, More Elders: Implications for North Carolina	10/26/2026	10/26/2026	Mike	Cline	<i>Dr. Mike Cline</i> ; State Demographer of North Carolina at the NC Office of State Budget and Management and produces the official population estimates and projections for North Carolina counties and municipalities; Dr. Cline is the author or co-author of several books, book chapters, and articles, including: <i>Challenges in the Analysis of Rural Populations in the United States</i> , <i>Population Change in the United States</i> , and <i>Changing Texas</i> .
MCE-LLI-3-476	Dix Park: Discover Raleigh's Signature Destination	10/28/2026	10/28/2026	Lauren	Danforth	<i>Lauren Danforth</i> ; Sr. Manager of Marketing and Communications for Dix Park with the City of Raleigh, leading strategic communications, visitor experience, and audience engagement initiatives; named 2025 Raleigh Parks Employee of the Year, she has spent eight years building the park's communications program to increase awareness, visitation and impact-- supporting continued park development; drawing on a nonprofit background, Lauren brings a community-centered approach to marketing, public relations, and storytelling that connects people to place.
MCE-LLI-1-375	Those Oldies But Goodies--Music from the 50s and 60s	10/29/2026	12/10/2026	Stan	Darer	<i>Stan Darer</i> ; B.A., Economics, Lehman College, CUNY, Bronx; thirty-eight year career in finance in the electrical supply industry with Graybar Electric Company; volunteer at several organizations in Raleigh, including Temple Beth Or, and presents programs at Senior Communities; past member on OLLI's Program Committee, Membership and Marketing Committee and Advisory Council; 2017 recipient of OLLI's Betty Poulton Volunteerism Award; instructor at OLLI at Duke.
MCE-LLI-1Z-418	Climate Change Solutions	10/13/2026	11/10/2026	Warren	Darrell	<i>Warren Darrell</i> ; P.E., M.S.; is a board member of Friends of the Coastal Reserve, an active volunteer with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Ecologic Development Fund, Earthwatch, and the North Carolina Coastal Federation; he is a registered professional engineer with master's degrees in environmental engineering and environmental science; Warren travels the world studying climate change, and teaches at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; he is an avid sea kayaker.
MCE-LLI-1-293	From a Murder to a Verdict	10/29/2026	12/10/2026	Mary Jude	Darrow	<i>Mary Jude Darrow</i> ; Loyola University School of Law; Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY; Assistant DA - New Orleans District Attorney's Office; Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Louisiana, and Eastern District of North Carolina; Criminal Defense Attorney; Assistant DA -- Durham, NC.
MCE-LLI-3-453	The Spirits of Playwright Conor McPherson	12/7/2026	12/7/2026	Jerome	Davis	<i>Jerome Davis</i> ; artistic director and founder, with his wife, Simmie Kastner, of Burning Coal Theatre Company in Raleigh; Jerome won the Raleigh Medal of Arts in 2018; his production of David Edgar's <i>Iron Curtain Trilogy</i> played to rave reviews at London's Cockpit Theatre in 2014 and received a 4 star review from the Guardian's Michael Billington; his production of Conor McPherson's <i>The Seafarer</i> plays at Burning Coal in December 2026.
MCE-LLI-1-040	Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	10/26/2026	12/7/2026	David	DeMaster	<i>Dave DeMaster</i> ; B.S., Chemistry, University of Wisconsin; M.S., PhD, Marine Geochemistry, Yale; Professor Emeritus, Department of MEAS, NC State.
MCE-LLI-1Z-359	Robinson Crusoe: How Daniel Defoe Sold the English on North America	9/15/2026	10/6/2026	Beverly	Dowdy	<i>Beverly Dowdy</i> ; B.S., Appalachian State University; MLIS, University of Oklahoma; M.A., Liberal Studies, Duke University; Master's Thesis awarded Exemplary Designation entitled "Robinson Crusoe as Promotion Literature: the Reality of English Settlement in the Chesapeake, 1624-1680"; Department Head in Duke University Libraries, 2008-2020.
MCE-LLI-2-216	Sports Card History and Collecting	12/1/2026	12/8/2026	Greg	Dragos	<i>Greg Dragos</i> ; Wake County U.S. History teacher for 28 years; opened the first baseball card shop in Raleigh in 1989; for the last 30 plus years he has been an active collector, buyer and seller of a couple million dollars worth of sports cards; he has exhibited at 20 sports card conventions nationwide.
MCE-LLI-1-381	America's First Ladies: Public Face, Private Influence	9/14/2026	10/19/2026	Annette	Dunlap	<i>Annette Dunlap</i> ; three-time Hoover Scholar and author of biographies on first ladies Frances Cleveland and Lou Hoover; she has contributed to White House History Quarterly, appeared on two C-SPAN "First Ladies: Impact and Image" programs, served as a panelist at the Harding Symposium on Transitional First Ladies, and contributed to the forthcoming book <i>Ohio's First Ladies</i> .; Annette holds a B.A. in Government and an MBA; she describes her study of first ladies as her "expensive habit."
MCE-LLI-1-377	Exploding Stars and Their Aftermath	10/28/2026	12/9/2026	Donald	Ellison	<i>Don Ellison</i> ; Ph.D., The Catholic University of America; Professor Emeritus, Physics, NC State; has taught and done research on the theory of cosmic rays, particle acceleration in high-energy astrophysics, and the modeling of supernova remnants; Fellow of the American Physical Society since 1998; OLLI instructor of courses on astrophysics and general physics since 2019.
MCE-LLI-4-048	Astronomy Night at Wilkerson Nature Preserve	11/17/2026	11/17/2026	Bryan	England	<i>Bryan England</i> ; Preserve Manager, Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park
MCE-LLI-4-140	Watercolor Painting at Pullen Arts Center: Sketching Forests	11/16/2026	11/16/2026	Patrizia	Ferreira	<i>Patrizia Ferreira</i> ; received a bachelor's degree in textile design from the Institute of Industrial Design in Montevideo, Uruguay and a Master of Science degree in textile design for prints from Thomas Jefferson University; she is a full-time artist and educator working in Raleigh, North Carolina
MCE-LLI-3-114	Fall Semester Kick-Off Lecture and Open House: The Ecology of Place	9/9/2026	9/9/2026	Charles	Flink	Chuck Flink; FASLA, is the Howard C. and Margaret G. Bissell Director of the Pappas Real Estate Development Program at NC State University; Flink is an award-winning author, planner and landscape architect who has completed work in 250 communities, 35 states, and in Europe, Asia, and South America; he is the recipient of four dozen national, regional and local planning and design awards; in 2023 he was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architect's Alfred B. LaGasse Medal in recognition of his 40-year career devoted to the management and conservancy of natural resources and public landscapes; Flink is a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects, the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus of the NC State University College of Design, and a 2019 recipient of the NC State University Watauga Medal; Flink is the author of three books, with his most recent <i>The Greenway Imperative: Connecting Communities and Landscapes for A Sustainable Future</i> .
MCE-LLI-1-383	The James Webb Space Telescope	9/17/2026	10/22/2026	Brand	Fortner	<i>Brand Fortner</i> ; Ph.D. in high energy astrophysics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; teaching professor in physics at NC State and adjunct professor of physics at UNC-Chapel Hill; founder of two software companies; previously held positions at NASA, NCSA, and Johns Hopkins University.
MCE-LLI-1Z-252	Cosmic Curiosity: A Beginner's Guide to the Universe	9/15/2026	11/10/2026	Brand	Fortner	<i>Brand Fortner</i> ; Ph.D. in high energy astrophysics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; teaching professor in physics at NC State and adjunct professor of physics at UNC-Chapel Hill; founder of two software companies; previously held positions at NASA, NCSA, and Johns Hopkins University.
MCE-LLI-2-215	Fasten Your Seatbelt: Surviving Market Turbulence	11/18/2026	12/9/2026	Janet	Fox	<i>Janet Fox</i> ; financial consultant and president of ACH Investment Group, Inc.; specialties include financial, retirement, investments, and insurance planning; member of the Financial Planning Association and the Certified Long Term Care program as a long term care specialist; veteran OLLI instructor.

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MCE-LLI-2-219	Orbital Mechanics for the Rest of Us	10/7/2026	10/14/2026	Marc	Fusco	<i>Marc Fusco</i> ; M.A., M.S.; Marc has several degrees in Medieval and Renaissance Literature and History, with a focus on Shakespeare and Elizabethan Literature, and an M.S. in Space Studies, where he majored in space policy and history; he has taught at Arizona State, Duke, and UNC; Marc is one of NC's NASA Ambassadors, where he has given over 800 public lectures on space across the solar system and has taught many classes on space-related subjects here at OLLI.
MCE-LLI-3-461	Tastemakers: French Gastronomes and Celebrity Chefs	10/8/2026	10/8/2026	Michael	Garval	<i>Dr. Michael Garval</i> ; B.A., Vassar College, M.A. and Ph.D., New York University; Professor of French, NC State; former director of the university's interdisciplinary, self-designed Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program; Associate Editor of the journal <i>Contemporary French Civilization</i> ; and Co-Convener of the Triangle French History and Culture Seminar.
MCE-LLI-3-284	Creative Approaches to Facing Uncertainty	9/16/2026	9/16/2026	Annelies	Gentile	<i>Annelies M Gentile</i> ; M.A., PCC is a visionary, Integrative Life and Leadership Executive Coach, speaker, process artist, facilitator and author of <i>From Chaos to Calm: Leading Change from the Inside Out</i> ; from managing burnout to nurturing creativity to tending grief associated with change, Annelies brings 33 years of career experience to helping people traverse the gaps of uncertainty with courage, creativity and grace; she holds a master's degree in Coaching from the Maryland University of Integrative Health; learn more at www.conduitforchange.com .
MCE-LLI-1-376	Peter Watkins: Marginalized Major Filmmaker	10/27/2026	12/8/2026	Joe	Gomez	<i>Joe Gomez</i> ; Emeritus Professor of English and Founding Director of the Film Studies Program at NC State; he taught at the college and university level for over 40 years and is the author of two books on film directors Ken Russell and Peter Watkins, as well as numerous articles on various aspects of film.
MCE-LLI-3-475	Quantum Mechanics--the Rules of the Universe	11/17/2026	11/17/2026	Christopher	Gould	<i>Chris Gould</i> ; is an Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor of Physics Emeritus at NC State; he is a nuclear physicist by training, with interests in cosmology, energy research and science education; he is a Fellow of the American Physical Society; as a member of the KamLAND collaboration, he was co-recipient of the 2016 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics "for the fundamental discovery and exploration of neutrino oscillations."
MCE-LLI-3-454	The VIETRI Story: Entrepreneurship with a Soul	9/16/2026	9/16/2026	Susan	Gravely	<i>Susan Gravely</i> ; graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill; Founder and CEO Emerita of VIETRI; bestselling author of seven books, ranging from beloved children's titles to critically acclaimed lifestyle works celebrating Italian culture, entertaining, and the art of gathering; built VIETRI into a leading importer of Italian artisan tableware over 35+ years; recognized for her contributions to entrepreneurship, design, and fostering connections between Italian artisans and the American market.
MCE-LLI-3-469	The Power of Sports Storytelling with Jeff Gravley	10/5/2026	10/5/2026	Jeff	Gravley	<i>Jeff Gravley</i> ; 1985 graduate in Speech Communication at NC State; worked 35 years in local sports broadcasting at WRAL in Raleigh and WEWS in Cleveland; two-time North Carolina Sportscaster of the year and seven-time regional Emmy award winner.
MCE-LLI-3-474	I'm Dead... Now What? Creating Clarity for Your Loved Ones	9/16/2026	9/16/2026	Freda	Hamlett	<i>Freda Hamlett</i> ; B.A., Syracuse University in Interior Design; certified Senior Housing Professional; senior Real Estate Specialist.
MCE-LLI-3-470	Sea Turtle Health, Biology and Conservation	10/12/2026	10/12/2026	Craig	Harms	<i>Craig Harms</i> ; A.B., Harvard University; DVM, Iowa State; Ph.D., NC State; 2 years small animal private practice in a Alaska; 1 year exotic animal internship Kansas State; 3 year residency in zoological medicine at NC State; faculty with the NC State Veterinary School based at the Center for Marine Sciences & Technology since 2000; Professor of Aquatic Animal Medicine; author of over 200 publications on aquatic animal health and disease.
MCE-LLI-2-220	Supporting Pollinators Through Native Gardening	10/7/2026	10/21/2026	Angela	Hawkins	<i>Angela Hawkins</i> ; holds a degree in biology and environmental education; she has worked as a nature educator at Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve and has been a native gardener for over 20 years; Angela has volunteered extensively, helping run school and community gardens, and presents on native gardening topics for nonprofit and community groups; she owns Little Bluets Native Plants, through which she promotes gardening to support biodiversity, and sells native plants at local farmers markets.
MCE-LLI-1Z-385	The Films of Orson Welles	9/8/2026	10/13/2026	Peyton	Holland	<i>Peyton Holland</i> ; M.A., Film Studies, UNCW; he has taught courses on the aesthetics of monster movies and has served as a teaching assistant in intro courses on film aesthetics and world cinema; Peyton completed his Master's thesis detailing the advertising work of filmmaker David Lynch and has interned with production companies Grey Matter Productions and Voltage Entertainment.
MCE-LLI-2-217	Treaty of Versailles 1919: The Failed Peace	10/27/2026	11/10/2026	Konrad	Jarausch	<i>Konrad Jarausch</i> ; Lurcy Professor of European Civilization emeritus; past director of the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung in Potsdam/Germany; has written or edited about 50 books on German and European History, most notably <i>Out of Ashes: A New History of Europe in the 20th Century</i> .
MCE-LLI-3-460	Advancing Crop Productivity Using CRISPR Genome Editing	10/22/2026	10/22/2026	Tim	Kelliher	<i>Tim Kelliher</i> ; the Roberts and Mikhail Distinguished Chair in Plant Genome Editing at NC State; he has a co-appointment in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology and the Department of Horticultural Science; Tim leads the Genome Editing Center, which is focused on creating novel traits in row crops, specialty crops, and ornamental species, the goal is to shorten the timespan to deploy genome engineering innovations to farmers. He holds a B.S. in Biology from Swarthmore College, and a Ph.D. in Biology from Stanford University, where he studied corn plant reproductive biology; he spent the past 12 years at Syngenta based in RTP, NC leading programs focusing on breeding technologies and genome editing trait development for Syngenta Seeds, serving as head of Trait and Technology Discovery; in that role he managed teams working on GMOs and Genome Editing in the US and around the world.
MCE-LLI-2-223	Happiness: Lessons from Science and History	10/13/2026	10/20/2026	Brian	King	<i>Brian King</i> ; holds degrees in English and Communication from James Madison University; he has worked for more than 30 years in software engineering at IBM and Red Hat and currently serves as a Senior Engineering Manager at Red Hat; Brian is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and has taught adult Sunday School classes for 12 years, creating interdisciplinary courses that connect psychology, history, science, and religion; he lives in Apex, N.C.
MCE-LLI-2-225	Pop Song Forms Used in Musicals	10/28/2026	11/4/2026	Timothy	Kloth	<i>Timothy Kloth</i> ; first studied composition while in high school with David Cope at the Cleveland Institute of Music; continuing to major in composition, he earned a B.M. at Capital University's Conservatory of Music, an M.M. at the Eastman School of Music, and his DMA from the University of North Texas; major professors included Larry Austin, Warren Benson, Merrill Ellis, Martin Mailman, and Joseph Schwantner.
MCE-LLI-2-180	Exploring Practical Uses of AI	9/15/2026	10/6/2026	Howard	Koslow	<i>Howard Koslow</i> ; B.S., Brown University; Software engineer for IBM; volunteer and instructor for OLLI at Duke, teaching technology courses since 2018.

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MCE-LLI-3-250	Management of Blood Glucose: Spotlight on GLP-1	11/18/2026	11/18/2026	Olga	Kosmos	<i>Olga Kosmos</i> ; highly accomplished Nurse Educator, specializing in Diabetes Knowledge; with over 15 years of experience in the healthcare industry; Olga holds a B.S. in Nursing from Winston Salem State University, following her earlier graduation from Wake Tech Community College; as a Registered Nurse, Board Certified in Nursing and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES), Olga has dedicated her career to empowering patients in managing their diabetes by providing them with invaluable knowledge and guidance; her commitment to improving patient outcomes through education sets her apart as a compassionate and knowledgeable healthcare professional.
MCE-LLI-1-040	Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	10/26/2026	12/7/2026	Kenneth	Kunkel	<i>Kenneth Kunkel</i> ; B.S., Physics, Southern Illinois University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison; Research Professor Emeritus, Department of MEAS, NC State.
MCE-LLI-1Z-380	Read and Discuss Nadine Gordimer's <i>July's People</i>	10/28/2026	11/18/2026	Marjorie	Lancaster	<i>Marjorie Lancaster</i> ; graduated from Duke and did graduate work in English at Tulane; she taught high school English for over 30 years, during which time she was honored to be designated Teacher of the Year from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district; since retiring she has taken and taught numerous OLLI classes; for her, the ideal class is fueled by curiosity and preparation and is energized by lively discussions marked by differing viewpoints.
MCE-LLI-3-472	Designing for Tomorrow-Evolution of the American House	10/20/2026	10/20/2026	Charles	Leahy	<i>Charles Leahy</i> ; undergraduate degrees in Physics, Math and Business as well as a graduate MBA degree; initially starting his professional career in the technology industry in RTP, Charles later ran global operations for a start-up in Silicon Valley that was eventually sold to Broadcom in 2001; in the mid-2000s Charles transitioned to the building products sector and is determined to bring better technologies to the 200+ year old U.S. construction industry.
MCE-LLI-1-040	Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	10/26/2026	12/7/2026	Lonnie	Leithold	<i>Lonnie Leithold</i> ; B.S., Geology and Geophysics, University of Wisconsin-Madison; M.S., Ph.D., Geology, University of Washington, Professor Emeritus, Department of MEAS, NC State.
MCE-LLI-2Z-224	The Vietnam War: Lessons NOT Learned	10/6/2026	10/13/2026	Ed	Linz	<i>Ed Linz</i> ; 1965 graduate of the Naval Academy; author of seven books, including works on the Great Depression and the Vietnam War, and most recently, two children's books; he holds advanced degrees from Oxford University and George Mason University and lives in Maine and Virginia; he was the recipient of a heart transplant in 1994.
MCE-LLI-1-059	Immortal Beloved: Beethoven's Life, Loves, and Music	10/27/2026	12/8/2026	David	Lynch	<i>David Lynch</i> ; professor and department head emeritus and current adjunct professor, Meredith College; organist-choirmaster emeritus, Christ Church; former deacon, Church of the Nativity. Consultant/examiner, National Association of Schools of Music; clinician for church music, choral, organ workshops and festivals; veteran OLLI instructor.
MCE-LLI-2-173	Ragtime--America's Musical Past	11/2/2026	11/9/2026	Marilyn	Lynch	<i>Marilyn Lynch</i> ; retired Teaching Associate Professor, Music Department, NC State; recipient of the University Outstanding Extension Award; educator, lecturer, and performer in area colleges, churches, social and civic organizations; BMus in Education, Syracuse University; M.A. in Theory, Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester; veteran OLLI instructor.
MCE-LLI-4-121	Clay Ornaments Intergenerational Workshop at Pullen Arts Center	10/12/2026	10/12/2026	Emily	Malpass	<i>Emily Rubin Malpass</i> ; teaching artist with a passion for supporting people at every age and stage of artistic development to find their own way with clay; clay is her favorite teaching medium though she makes wheel-thrown porcelain vessels and works in fiber art/quilting, slow mending and performance art; Emily holds classes for youth and adults at the Pullen Arts Center and for veterans and their families at The Joel Fund Operation Art.
MCE-LLI-3-363	Scams--Identify and Protect Yourself	10/21/2026	10/21/2026	John	Maron	<i>John Maron</i> ; Director of the Investor Protection and Education Services Program with the Securities Division of the NC Department of the Secretary of State; has been part of a team that has conducted investor education events in all 100 counties, helping over 282,000 investors avoid fraudulent investment schemes and businesses understand their obligations to investors when seeking business capital; currently serves as Co-Chair of the NC Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse (NCP3A); serves on the Governor's Financial Literacy Council and is Vice-Chair of the Alerts and Advisories Project Group for the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA); graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
MCE-LLI-2-200	Introduction to Coin Collecting and Valuation	10/26/2026	11/9/2026	Jeff	McCauslin	<i>Jeff McCauslin</i> ; lifelong collector of coins and currency; currently he is president of the Raleigh Coin Club; learn more at raleighcoinclub.org ; Jeff has completed the American Numismatic Association Numismatic Scholar program and is a previous awardee of the North Carolina Numismatic Association Numismatist of the Year.
MCE-LLI-1-042	Discovering the Dead at Oakwood Cemetery	9/15/2026	10/20/2026	Brianna	McCormick	<i>Brianna McCormick</i> ; Program Coordinator at Historic Oakwood Cemetery since 2022; with Oakwood Cemetery since 2018, B.A.'s in Art History and Fiber Art from Massachusetts College of Art and Design; served as researcher of the book <i>Bringing them Home: Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery and the Dead of America's Wars</i> , and <i>Life and Death in High Places</i> , by Robin Simonton and Bruce Miller; outside of Historic Oakwood Cemetery, Brianna is a professional genealogist, landscape painter and textile historian.
MCE-LLI-5-007	Conversations with History	11/12/2026	11/12/2026	Christopher	McKittrick	<i>Chris McKittrick</i> ; CPA-Retired and a retired Lecturer in the Accounting Department in NC State's Poole College of Management; B.S., MBA, Drexel University; after many years and many roles in business, he joined the NC State faculty in 2010; since then, he taught over 13,000 students in accounting courses at NC State, NC Central University, and the SKEMA Business School.
MCE-LLI-3-480	The Dynamics Affecting the 2026 Midterm Elections	10/27/2026	10/27/2026	David	McLennan	<i>David McLennan</i> ; B.A., M.A., University of Virginia; Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin; Professor of Political Science, Meredith College.
MCE-LLI-4-124	Handbuilding Workshop at Pullen Arts Center: Create a Flowerpot from Clay	9/24/2026	9/24/2026	Patty	Merrell	<i>Patty Merrell</i> ; pottery studio coordinator at Sertoma Arts Center; she instructs pottery classes for kids and adults at Pullen and Sertoma Arts Centers; in her work, Patty employs the exuberant use of architectural elements to invoke an impression of a bygone and more elegant era.
MCE-LLI-1-382	Plants and People	9/15/2026	10/20/2026	James	Mickle	<i>James Mickle</i> ; Professor Emeritus and Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology at NC State; he is a paleobotanist who earned BSc and MSc degrees from Ohio State University, a Ph.D. from Ohio University, all in botany, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Naples, Italy; he has been at NC State for 39 years and previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin.
MCE-LLI-1-411	Evolution of Warfare Tactics and Weapons Part I	9/14/2026	10/19/2026	Dave	Milidonis	<i>Dave Milidonis</i> ; founder and managing director of the non-profit organization, the National Veterans History Archival Institute (NVHAI); 1974 graduate, U.S. Military Academy, West Point; 20 years U.S. Army infantry experience; veteran OLLI instructor and 2019 recipient of the William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement, given by NC State's Association of Retired Faculty.

Fall 2026 Instructor Bios - OLLI at NC State University

Listings are alphabetical by instructor last name.

Course ID	Instance Name	Instance Start Date	Instance End Date	First Name	Last Name	Bio
MCE-LLI-3-450	The Poet and the Priestess: Langston Hughes's Friendship with Nina Simone	11/2/2026	11/2/2026	W. Jason	Miller	<i>W. Jason Miller</i> ; B.A., M.A., University of Nebraska; Ph.D., Washington State University; Distinguished Professor at NC State and public scholar; he is the author of several books, including <i>Langston Hughes: Critical Lives</i> , and has been featured on CNN, the BBC, NPR, and The Rachel Maddow Show.
MCE-LLI-1Z-386	Reading Nature Poetry	10/5/2026	10/26/2026	Jules	Miller	<i>Jules Miller</i> ; poet whose own work explores nature and the wonder of the mundane; he has been published many times in magazines like <i>Quarterly West</i> and <i>Arcturus</i> and has been teaching poetry for several years at a collegiate level.
MCE-LLI-3-458	Chautauqua--The Most American Thing in America	9/17/2026	9/17/2026	Gary	Moore	<i>Gary Moore</i> ; Professor Emeritus, Agricultural and Extension Education, NC State; member of the NC State University Academy of Outstanding Teachers; 2024 recipient of the William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement; has made presentations in 41 states, four Canadian provinces and on four continents; veteran OLLI instructor.
MCE-LLI-3-206	The History and Evolution of the Outhouse	11/16/2026	11/16/2026	Gary	Moore	<i>Gary Moore</i> ; Professor Emeritus, Agricultural and Extension Education, NC State; member of the NC State University Academy of Outstanding Teachers; 2024 recipient of the William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement; has made presentations in 41 states, four Canadian provinces and on four continents; veteran OLLI instructor.
MCE-LLI-3-032	Medicare Basics--Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)	9/24/2026	9/24/2026	Rhonda	Narron	<i>Rhonda Narron</i> ; has been with the N.C. Department of Insurance since March 2012 and currently serves as the Southeast Regional Manager for the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP); in her role, Rhonda oversees SHIIP services across twenty-two counties, where she recruits and trains volunteer counselors and county coordinators; she leads community outreach through educational programs, speaking engagements, exhibits at conferences and health fairs, and appearances on radio and television; with a strong background in human services, Rhonda is passionate about helping individuals and families navigate complex Medicare health insurance decisions; her leadership ensures that people across the region have access to accurate, unbiased information and the support they need to make informed choices about Medicare coverage.
MCE-LLI-1-384	Strange Records: D-Sides, Orphans, and Oddities (1965--1980)	10/29/2026	12/10/2026	Gilbert	Neal	<i>Gilbert Neal</i> ; B.A. in Broadcasting; writer, content strategist, and radio host with 20+ years' experience in advertising, financial services, and technology, and host of <i>D-Sides, Orphans, and Oddities</i> on WHUP since 2015; published songwriter and recording artist; former manager of the Wells Fargo AI Chatbot Wiki; experience teaching through guided discussion, music research, and public presentation, with a focus on cultural history, recorded music, and storytelling.
MCE-LLI-2-218	Online Passwords--Cleanup on Aisle Three	10/7/2026	10/14/2026	Bill	Pace	<i>Bill Pace</i> ; enjoyed a long career in the IT industry; since joining OLLI, he has chaired the Science and Technology subcommittee and serves on the Program Development Committee; he is a veteran OLLI instructor and presents courses on a wide range of science topics.
MCE-LLI-1-406	Reading George Eliot's <i>Middlemarch</i>	10/26/2026	11/16/2026	Judith	Page	<i>Judith W. Page</i> , Ph.D., University of Chicago; Professor Emerita of English at the University of Florida; she has published books and articles on British literature, with a focus on the Romantics, on women writers, and on literature and art of the natural world; her most recent book, <i>Southern Women, Southern Landscapes: Cultural Reflections on the Garden, 1870-1970</i> (co-authored with Elise L. Smith), marks a departure from both her British focus and her attention mostly to 18 th , 19 th , and early 20 th century literature.
MCE-LLI-1-021	Great Books Discussion Group: The Will of the People: Readings in American Democracy	9/14/2026	11/30/2026	John	Pilgrim	<i>John Pilgrim</i> ; Ph.D., Economics, Vanderbilt University; B.A., Economics, Grinnell College; professor of economics for 35 years, now retired; has taught various economics-related OLLI courses; facilitates the OLLI Great Books discussion course; veteran OLLI instructor.
MCE-LLI-1-408	AI and Robotics Today: Understanding a Rapidly Changing Frontier	9/16/2026	10/21/2026	John	Prager	<i>John M. Prager</i> ; B.A., M.A., Ph.D. from University of Cambridge and University of Massachusetts, in mathematics, computer science and artificial intelligence; worked for 40 years in Research at IBM; authored about 100 publications, including two dozen patents; formed the question-answering project that became the Watson system that won at Jeopardy! on national TV in 2011; after retirement in 2019, became a frequent OLLI at Duke presenter, and first taught for OLLI NC State in 2024.
MCE-LLI-1-293	From a Murder to a Verdict	10/29/2026	12/10/2026	Debi	Radisch	<i>Deborah Radisch</i> ; earned her M.D. from Bowman Gray School of Medicine (WFU), completed post-graduate training at NC Memorial Hospital and the NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and is board-certified in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology; she obtained her MPH (HPAA) at UNC Gillings School of Public Health; her area of special interest is reviewing child fatalities to prevent their occurrence; in 2010, following 25 years of experience as a forensic pathologist at the NC OCME, she became the Chief Medical Examiner of NC; upon her retirement in 2019, she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.
MCE-LLI-2-222	Exploring Jupiter and Other Alien Planets	12/1/2026	12/8/2026	Alan	Rich	<i>Alan Rich</i> ; B.S., M.S., Chemistry; spokesman for NASA through the JPL Solar System Ambassador program since 2001; facilitating scientist for technology spin-offs from Mars exploration into the field of diagnostic medicine.
MCE-LLI-2-221	Robotic Exploration of Mars	9/21/2026	9/28/2026	Alan	Rich	<i>Alan Rich</i> ; B.S., M.S., Chemistry; spokesman for NASA through the JPL Solar System Ambassador program since 2001; facilitating scientist for technology spin-offs from Mars exploration into the field of diagnostic medicine.
MCE-LLI-1Z-410	Retirement Planning in the Age of AI	9/17/2026	10/8/2026	James	Richardson	<i>James M. Richardson</i> ; Private Wealth Advisor, Certified Financial Planner, Chartered Financial Consultant, and Accredited Portfolio Management Advisor; Managing Principal, Richardson Private Wealth Advisors; multi-year recipient of Forbes "Best in State Wealth Advisors" recognition and veteran OLLI instructor; frequent lecturer at Fortune 500 companies: IBM, GSK, Cardinal Health and GE.
MCE-LLI-1-040	Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	10/26/2026	12/7/2026	Walter	Robinson	<i>Walt Robinson</i> ; Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at NC State, holds B.S. and M.S. degrees In Physics from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from Columbia; his research and teaching address the dynamics of the atmosphere and climate; Robinson is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.
MCE-LLI-2-209	Discovering Ancient Nubia and the Kingdom of Kush	11/30/2026	12/7/2026	Caroline	Rocheleau	<i>Caroline Rocheleau</i> ; obtained her Ph.D. in Egyptology and Nubiology from the University of Toronto, Canada, focusing on the material culture of ancient Egypt and Sudan; she is the North Carolina Museum of Art's Director of Research and Curator of Ancient Collections, overseeing the archaeological collections of the ancient Mediterranean and ancient Americas; her publications include Amun Temples in Nubia and the NCMA's Ancient Egyptian Art catalogue; she is the coordinating curator of Ancient Nubia: Excavating Treasures of the Nile.

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Listings are alphabetical by instructor last name.

Course ID	Instance Name	Instance Start Date	Instance End Date	First Name	Last Name	Bio
MCE-LLI-3-432	NC Internet Crimes Against Children	11/18/2026	11/18/2026	Kevin	Roughton	<i>Kevin Roughton</i> ; B.A., Criminal Justice, East Carolina University; M.A., Criminal Justice, Liberty University; Kevin has been employed by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) and assigned to the Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) since 2007; he served with the Nash County Sheriff's Office for over 8 years in various divisions, attaining the rank of Sergeant; currently Kevin leads a team of agents and analysts that investigate crimes related to child sexual exploitation and child solicitation; he is the Commander of the North Carolina Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, which consists of approximately 230+ local affiliate agencies across the state; Kevin is an instructor and regularly speaks at conferences and events, as well as teaches other law enforcement officers in ICAC investigations and digital forensics.
MCE-LLI-2-213	History and Application of U.S. Immigration Laws	10/7/2026	10/21/2026	Todd	Rubin	<i>Todd Rubin</i> ; retired lawyer who received his J.D. degree from the University of New York at Buffalo; practiced immigration law exclusively for 37 years in Washington, D.C. and Raleigh, N.C. and formerly served as Chapter Chair of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.
MCE-LLI-2-211	Liberty Ships of World War II	10/28/2026	11/4/2026	Steve	Sakofsky	<i>Steve Sakofsky</i> ; worked in industrial manufacturing management, mainly in Quality Assurance; he is a veteran OLLI instructor and is a member of the Program Development Committee.
MCE-LLI-1-143	Discussing "Sense and Sensibility"	10/27/2026	11/17/2026	Sue	Scott	<i>Sue Scott</i> ; retired librarian; she has taught classes for OLLI on Jane Austen's most popular novels, including <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> and <i>Persuasion</i> ; as a member of the Jane Austen Society, she presents programs about Austen's life and novels; most recently, a discussion entitled "What Every Janeite Needs to Know"; past member of OLLI's Hospitality Committee.
MCE-LLI-3-462	American Chestnut: Demise and Reintroduction Into Eastern Forests	12/2/2026	12/2/2026	Howard	Shew	<i>David Shew</i> ; Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology from NC State; conducted research and taught multiple undergraduate and graduate classes at NC State; he received numerous university and national teaching awards, including the Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor; he is a native of Brunswick Co, NC, and has a passion for plants and the natural world, including the microbial organisms that enhance or damage plant health; his passion for teaching has found a new outlet in teaching courses in OLLI.
MCE-LLI-3-449	Matter, Forces, and the Secret Connections of Nature	11/16/2026	11/16/2026	Lawrence	Silverberg	<i>Larry Silverberg</i> ; earned three degrees in engineering mechanics at Virginia Tech before joining the NC State faculty; explored the foundations of ordinary and relativistic dynamics for decades doing "cool professor things"; now an emeritus professor, Dr. Silverberg teaches an undergraduate course called relativistic dynamics—a testing ground for storytelling ideas; his passion today is making modern science clear and memorable, even when it feels almost against common sense.
MCE-LLI-1-042	Discovering the Dead at Oakwood Cemetery	9/15/2026	10/20/2026	Robin	Simonton	<i>Robin Simonton</i> ; Executive Director of Historic Oakwood Cemetery since 2011; B.A., U.S. History, University of Hawaii; M.A., Historical Administration, Eastern Illinois University; served as researcher of the book <i>Oahu Cemetery: Burial Ground & Historic Site</i> , by Nanette Napoleon in 1997; co-authored <i>Images of America: History Oakwood Cemetery</i> with Bruce Miller, 2017.
MCE-LLI-1-300	Abraham Lincoln: Character is Destiny	9/14/2026	10/19/2026	Joe	Simpson	<i>Joe H. Simpson</i> ; B.A. in history from UNC-Chapel Hill; he has researched Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era for over 30 years; since 2019, Joe has taught a course about Abraham Lincoln at OLLI Programs including: NC State, Duke, UVA, Michigan, American Univ., and UCLA.
MCE-LLI-3-446	NASCAR's History and Heritage in the Carolinas	10/9/2026	10/9/2026	Michael	Smith	<i>Michael Smith</i> ; B.S., Sport/Entertainment/Event Management, Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte; M.R., Parks, Recreation, Tourism, Sport Management, NC State; MBA, Coastal Carolina University; Graduate Certificate in Digital Marketing, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; over 10 years experience in sports marketing in NASCAR at Charlotte Motor Speedway and Darlington Raceway; published in multiple Academic Journals; former Adjunct Professor of Marketing at Francis Marion University and current Student Conduct Coordinator at Francis Marion University in Florence, SC.
MCE-LLI-1Z-409	"The Juice is the Action" The Films of Michael Mann	9/17/2026	10/22/2026	Zack	Smith	<i>Zack Smith</i> ; has more than a decade of experience teaching film courses at OLLI; he has written on film for <i>INDY Week</i> and other publications, and holds master's degrees in English and Journalism.
MCE-LLI-1-379	Robber Barons to Tech Lords: Capitalism and Democracy in America	9/15/2026	10/6/2026	Anthony	Solari	<i>Tony Solari</i> ; Ph.D, Political Science, Duke University; has been teaching political science since 1986; specializes in political philosophy, American government and politics, American political thought, and legislative politics and policy; author of a number of articles and papers; former legislative liaison for the Department of State Treasurer, lobbied for NC's "Smart Start" program and currently is president of Solari Government Solutions, a private lobbying firm.
MCE-LLI-2-207	Abbreviations, Idioms and Sayings: Understanding the Language We Use	9/16/2026	9/23/2026	Steve	Swaim	<i>Steve Swaim</i> ; B.A., Linguistics, UNC-Chapel Hill; taught Spanish and Linguistics at Ravenscroft School for 33 years; his greatest regret is that he cannot learn every language ever spoken; veteran OLLI instructor.
MCE-LLI-1Z-378	Contagion 101: An Introduction to Infectious Disease	10/27/2026	12/8/2026	Abagael	Sykes	<i>Abagael Sykes</i> ; B.S., Biological Sciences, Royal Veterinary College, University of London; M.S., Epidemiology, Imperial College London; Ph.D., Comparative Biomedical Sciences (Population Health), NC State; her professional background is in academic research, specializing in analyzing and modeling infectious disease outbreaks using mathematical and statistical techniques; her current research, as a postdoc at UNC Chapel Hill, focuses on developing modeling methods for situations where there is limited data about an outbreak.
MCE-LLI-3-472	Designing for Tomorrow-Evolution of the American House	10/20/2026	10/20/2026	Phillip	Szostak	<i>Philip Szostak</i> , FAIA Principal; over 40 years of experience in a broad range of architectural design projects; graduate of NC State's College of Design; recent projects include the Durham Performing Arts Center, the Aloft Hotel in Downtown Durham, and renovations to the Capitol Broadcasting Company Headquarters in Raleigh; his portfolio includes notable cultural projects such as renovations to the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem; he is currently leading multiple projects for UNC System institutions; Phil's work has been widely acknowledged, garnering numerous local, regional and national awards for design excellence over the course of his career.
MCE-LLI-1-294	The World of Stonehenge and the Neolithic Revolution	10/27/2026	12/8/2026	Buzz	Thunen	<i>Buzz Thunen</i> ; Ph.D., Northwestern University; B.A., Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz; taught Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of North Florida for 34 years; created the UNF Anthropology Major and the Archaeology Lab; worked on Archaeological Research in California, Illinois, Tennessee and Florida; research focused on the Middle Woodland Ceremonial Earthworks, and French and Spanish in 16 th century Florida.

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MCE-LLI-3-477	Symbols and Landscapes of the Pre-Columbian Mississippian World	11/30/2026	11/30/2026	Buzz	Thunen	<i>Buzz Thunen</i> ; Ph.D., Northwestern University; B.A., Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz; taught Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of North Florida for 34 years; created the UNF Anthropology Major and the Archaeology Lab; worked on Archaeological Research in California, Illinois, Tennessee and Florida; research focused on the Middle Woodland Ceremonial Earthworks, and French and Spanish in 16 th century Florida.
MCE-LLI-3-371	Mathematics and Judaism	9/24/2026	9/24/2026	Jerry	Tuttle	<i>Jerry Tuttle</i> ; retired actuary who worked for 42 years for insurance companies in NYC and NJ; he is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society, and he has master's degrees in mathematics from the University of Virginia and data analytics from Southern New Hampshire University; he is currently an online adjunct in both subjects at SNHU; Jerry believes mathematics is everywhere and mathematics can be fun, so he is always looking for unusual and fun places where mathematics appears.
MCE-LLI-4-060	Jewelry Making at Pullen Arts Center: Anodized Niobium Earrings	9/28/2026	9/28/2026	Amy	Veatch	<i>Amy Veatch</i> ; has been making and teaching jewelry at Pullen Arts Center for many years. She also teaches metals programs at the NC State Crafts Center and Sertoma Arts Center. Come join her, be creative, and learn a little bit about making jewelry.
MCE-LLI-2-141	The French Revolution	10/27/2026	11/10/2026	Steven	Vincent	<i>Steven Vincent</i> ; Ph.D., UC Berkeley; Professor of History, NC State, specializing in modern European intellectual history and French social and political history.
MCE-LLI-2Z-212	Black Loyalists of the American Revolution	11/5/2026	11/19/2026	Sharon	Ware	<i>Sharon D. Ware</i> ; holds a bachelor's degree in nursing, two master's degrees: one in Nursing education and one in Christian Education, and a doctorate in Adult Education; she has attended East Carolina University, California State University at Long Beach, Oral Roberts University and Oklahoma State University; she retired after over 50 years of experience in nursing, is an avid reader and enjoys traveling and discovering the African diaspora.
MCE-LLI-3-456	Wandering in Wonder--Writing About Nature	9/18/2026	9/18/2026	Sue	Wasserman	<i>Sue Wasserman</i> ; B.A., Communications, The Ohio State University; currently the travel and tourism director for Yancey County, NC with years of experience in freelance writing, marketing, and public relations; in 2022 Wasserman was honored to be selected as the Steve Kemp Writer in Residence in Great Smoky Mountains National Park; she has self-published three books, including <i>A Moment's Notice</i> , and has been published in <i>Southern Living</i> , <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>Atlanta Journal Constitution</i> , and more.
MCE-LLI-3-457	A Stream Flows Through It: Piedmont Style	10/30/2026	11/6/2026	Karl	Wegmann	<i>Karl Wegmann</i> ; Ph.D., Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lehigh University; Professor of Geology and Associate Head in the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at North Carolina State University and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America; his research focuses on geomorphology, landscape evolution, rivers, natural hazards, and environmental change; he is an award-winning educator who enjoys helping people interpret the stories recorded in landscapes and understand how Earth-surface processes shape the places where we live and the histories we make.
MCE-LLI-3-284	Creative Approaches to Facing Uncertainty	9/16/2026	9/16/2026	Greg	Whitt	<i>Greg Whitt</i> ; is an award-winning edutainer based in Raleigh, NC; he leads programs in corporations, congregations, communities and classrooms; programs designed to creatively connect people in ways that are joyful, engaging, and good for all; with a graduate certificate in Transformative Leadership from the Maryland University of Integrative Health, his programs are actually applied philosophy about how we can live, work, and play well together in community; only they're cleverly disguised as music, and they're delivered as interactive and engaging fun; Learn more at www.drumforchange.com
MCE-LLI-3-350	Be Proactive: Age Well and Prevent Falls	9/15/2026	9/15/2026	Kristina	Wolfe	<i>Kristina Wolfe</i> ; PT and Credentialed Balance and Falls Professional; Founder and Owner of Prosper PT & Wellness based in Wake Forest, N.C.; practicing in a variety of settings since 1997, Kristina opened Prosper in 2022 so she could focus on healthy aging for those age 50+ through prevention, health education, and wellness; the mobile business model allows her to impact others in their own communities so they can "Age Well. Be Proactive. Prosper."
MCE-LLI-3-472	Designing for Tomorrow-Evolution of the American House	10/20/2026	10/20/2026	Kim	Wooten	<i>Kim Wooten</i> ; graduate of The Johns Hopkins University with a degree in electrical engineering; served on the NC Building Code Council from 2008-2013 and again from 2019-2025; she is an expert in building electrical and energy codes, has received numerous awards and recognition, and is a senior energy and electrical engineer with Facility Strategies Group.
MCE-LLI-1Z-407	Introduction to Islamic Law	9/14/2026	11/9/2026	Theodora	Zampaki	<i>Theodora Zampaki</i> ; D.Phil., Graeco-Arabic Studies; tutor at the Hellenic Open University, Greece; she has been offering courses for OLLI at Furman since 2021.