



**TEXAS**  
The University of Texas at Austin



# **UT OLLI FORUM**

## **Spring 2023 Catalog**

Fridays & Thursdays  
March 31, 2023 – May 05, 2023

The University of Texas at Austin  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
2405 Robert Dedman Drive  
Austin, TX 78712  
512-471-3124

Online Registration Begins:  
**SCHOLARS:** Monday, March 20, 2023  
**FORUM:** Friday, March 24, 2023

[www.oli.utexas.edu](http://www.oli.utexas.edu)

## OVERVIEW

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### Welcome to UT OLLI!

On-campus curriculum will be provided by 4 different programs on their respective day throughout the week.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SAGE	DISCOVER	NOVA	<a href="#">ON-LINE</a>	<a href="#">FORUM</a>

In addition to on-campus exclusive seminars and lectures for each program, this 2022-2023 program year also introduces a Thursday on-line class from each program. *Don't forget to check out the [Spring 2023 Diversity Lectures](#) bookending the session as well!* Online content can be attended by all UT OLLI members remotely. Links to online classes will be emailed to members each week and will be available on the website.

### In-Person on Fridays with UT OLLI FORUM

	Option 1	Option 2
9:30AM – 10:40M	<a href="#">Winston Churchill- A Life Well Lived</a>	<a href="#">The German Influence on Texas Part II</a>
11:00AM – 12:10PM	<a href="#">Discover Texas State Parks</a>	<a href="#">The Secrets of True Happiness</a>
1:00PM – 2:10PM	<a href="#">Lectures</a>	

*\*UT OLLI is conducted in Central Time*

# UT OLLI FORUM Spring 2023 — In-Person Seminars - Fridays

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09:30 AM - 10:40 AM

## Winston Churchill- A Life Well Lived

Sir Winston Churchill, politician, military officer, and writer, served twice as prime minister of Great Britain. His magnificent oratory and staunch opposition to appeasement gave British citizens the courage to defend their country against near over-whelming Nazi aggression.

Director

**Richard Brook** - Speaker at all Events



Richard has a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada as well an MBA from SMU in Dallas. While traveling to Europe and Asia on business, he began visiting the locations of various battle fields where relatives of his had fought during WW I and WW II. These interests have since expanded, resulting in a wealth of research and visits to hundreds of museums and war-related sites in Europe and around the World.

### Event(s)

<b>03/31/2023</b>	Winston Churchill - Churchill's Early Life
<b>04/07/2023</b>	Winston Churchill- From 1900 through World War 1
<b>04/14/2023</b>	Winston Churchill- The Period Between Wars
<b>04/21/2023</b>	Winston Churchill- The Battle for Britain (Early WW II Years)
<b>04/28/2023</b>	Winston Churchill- Onwards to Victory and the Post War Years
<b>05/05/2023</b>	Winston Churchill- His Children, Literature and Paintings

**9:30-10:40 AM**

## **The German Influence on Texas Part II**

Continuing the earlier popular seminar presented to all groups, The German Influence on Texas Part II continues to describe how the German immigration of the 19th century left a distinctive mark on the state of Texas in lifestyles, architecture, business, music, education, and food.

Director



**Karen Dittmar Haschke** is a descendent of the earliest immigrants to the TX Hill Country in the first migration. She brings a unique perspective to central TX history as a member of the German Texan Historical Society.

### **Event(s)**

<b>03/31/2023</b>	From Germans in America: A Concise History	Walter D. Kamphoefner
<b>04/07/2023</b>	The Texas German Dialect Project	Hans C. Boas
<b>04/14/2023</b>	Lager, Beer Gardens, and Gemutlichkeit- A History of the German Influence on U.S. Beer	Jana Weiss
<b>04/21/2023</b>	C.A.Waltersforf, Rudolph Kleberg &the Econ. Develop. of DeWitt Co. in the 19th Century	James C. Kearney
<b>04/28/2023</b>	Comanches and Germans On the Texas Frontier	Christopher J. Wickham; Daniel J. Gelo
<b>05/05/2023</b>	Safer to be an Indian or a soldier than a German settler: Chaos on the Texas Frontier	Jolene M. Snider

**11:00 AM - 12:10 PM**

## Discover Texas State Parks

Texas State Parks offer a variety of recreational, environmental, historical study opportunities.

Director



Each week one or more parks will be introduced by State Park Interpreters or the Park Superintendent along with the Regional Interpretative Specialist, **Katie Raney**.

### Event(s)

<b>03/31/2023</b>	Bastrop, Buescher, and Lockhart State Parks: A Lasting Legacy	Lauren Hartwick Madalym Miller
<b>04/07/2023</b>	Palmetto State Park: Recreation Hotspot	Samantha Gonzalez
<b>04/14/2023</b>	Pedernales Falls State Park: The Natural Hill Country	Stephen Garmon Jason Hairston
<b>04/21/2023</b>	Mother Neff SP: The Start of Texas State Parks	Melissa Chadwick
<b>04/28/2023</b>	LBJ State Park and State Historic Site: History at Your F	Dennis Smith Hannah Kellogg
<b>05/05/2023</b>	McKinney Falls State Park: The Future of Texas State Parks	Lauren Sweat Tommy Cude

**11:00 AM - 12:10 PM**

## **The Secrets of True Happiness**

Seeking happiness is a goal most people agree on. But happiness is not about having more desirable things. It is a state of mind that requires a strong value system along with specific skills & attitudes. In this course, we can gain tools needed for a happier and a more peaceful life.

Director



**Farnaz Masumian** - Speaker at all Events

Farnaz Masumian is an author and a retired world religions lecturer for over 20 years-last 10 at UT Austin, she has authored four books, The Secrets of True Happiness is her most recent book co-authored with her husband, Bijan Masumian, and their son, Adib Masumian.

### **Event(s)**

<b>03/31/2023</b>	Science & Happiness, Happiness Enhancing Activities, Relaxation/visualization video
<b>04/07/2023</b>	Cultivating "Gratitude, "Building Strong Faith, Family (Joy/or Misery), Meditation
<b>04/14/2023</b>	Purpose of Life, Science & Love, Cultivating Love, Metta Meditation, Volunteering
<b>04/21/2023</b>	Science& Positivity, Meditation Types: Music, Single Object, Candle, Cyber/Virtual Temple
<b>04/28/2023</b>	Mantra Meditation, Benefits, Breath Awareness, Mindfulness-Present moment
<b>05/05/2023</b>	Visualization? Benefits? Science/visualization, Meditation/Science, Prayers

## UT OLLI FORUM Spring 2023 — In-Person Lectures - Fridays

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01:00 PM - 02:10 PM Lectures

03/31/2023

### The Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence (SETI)

There are searches for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence (SETI) ongoing across the electromagnetic spectrum. We will discuss SETI and also touch on the search for exoplanets, the origins of life, the Fermi Paradox and the wisdom of sending out our own messages into space.



**Kenneth W. Wisian**, Ph.D., Major General USAF (retired), is a geothermal geophysicist. He teaches Life in the Universe and Geothermal Systems at the University of Texas. General Wisian is a graduate of the USAF Test Pilot School, has combat time in multiple wars and his medals include the Bronze Star.

04/07/2023

### Plagues in Texas

The pandemic that reached Austin by March 2020 was historic. Yet there are many ways of interpreting it and previous Texas plagues. Some of those insights were shared in a series of columns in the American-Statesman and are useful for drawing conclusions about the place of COVID-19 in history.



**Michael Barnes** is the author of 3 editions of the book “Indelible Austin”. He is a native Texan who has written about people, places, culture and history for the Austin American Statesman for 25+ years.

(01:00 PM - 02:10 PM Lectures cont.)

**04/14/2023**

### **At Peace with the Process of Aging**

There is the perception that we can somehow cheat the aging process. There are a few things we can tease here and there, but most of us will age like our parents. I will teach you the hard facts about our aging musculoskeletal system, what we can change and what we should learn to love.



**Barbara Bergin**, MD, recently retired in 2022 from 36 years of orthopedic surgery practice in Austin, Texas. Dr. Bergin co-founded Texas Orthopedics, Sports, and Rehabilitation Associates in 1986. She is also an author and award-winning equestrienne.

**04/21/2023**

### **The Last Campaign: Sherman, Geronimo, and the War for America**

The quarter-century after the Civil War witnessed the final phase of the ten-thousand-year contest to determine control of the territory that became the United States. William Sherman, the Civil War hero, and Geronimo, the Apache war leader, personified the opposing sides in this epic struggle.



UT Professor **H. W. Bill Brands**, the Jack S. Blanton Sr. Chair in History, writes on American history and politics.

(01:00 PM - 02:10 PM Lectures cont.)

**04/28/2023**

**The Neill-Cochran House Museum:  
Slavery, Segregation and Gentrification in Austin**

The NCHM is home to one of Austin's oldest residences and only intact Slave dwelling. The Museum shares 100 years of history: late antebellum period and Civil War, Reconstruction, Depression, and early Civil Rights movement. Learn how it is tackling the most difficult elements of Austin history.



**Rowena Houghton Dasch** is the Executive Director of the Neill-Cochran House Museum, a position she has held for over 9 years. She holds an MA and a PhD in American Art from the University of Texas at Austin and an AB in Art and Archaeology from Princeton University.

**05/05/2023**

**The Anti-Defamation League:  
Combating Anti-Semitism, Tracking Hate**

ADL Austin works to fight hatred in all its forms. Come learn how ADL Austin is challenging bigotry and prejudice in our area.



**Jackie Nirenberg** is a leader in the communications field, with a special focus on diversity and fighting hate.



**Jillian Bontke** oversees all ADL Central Texas educational programs offering anti-bias learning experiences for student and adult learners.

# UT OLLI WIDE Spring 2023 — Online Classes Thursdays

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**09:30 AM - 10:40 AM Seminar**

## Texas Emerging Energy Future

The University of Texas and the Bureau of Economic Geology are leading the way in new energies, critical minerals and carbon sequestration as well as the increasingly urgent management of water in Texas. Talks in this series will address these areas as well as energy economics and natural gas.



Directors

**Mark W Shuster** - Speaker at all Events

Mark Shuster is Deputy Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, overseeing the Bureau's Energy Research Division



**Kenneth W. Wisian** - Speaker at all Events

Major General USAF (retired), is responsible for coordinating environmental related research in the Bureau of Economic Geology; Environmental Division.

### Event(s)

<b>03/30/2023</b>	Hot! Hot! Hot! Energy from the Earth
<b>04/06/2023</b>	Blue (Flame) Is the New Green - Natural GAs in the Energy Economy
<b>04/13/2023</b>	Critical minerals under our feet?
<b>04/20/2023</b>	Dollars for Water: Energy Cost Constraints to Groundwater Recoverability
<b>04/27/2023</b>	Low Carbon Hydrogen at Scale – The new Texas Tea
<b>05/04/2023</b>	Environmental and Consumer Costs of Different Electricity-Generating Options

## 11:00 AM - 12:10 PM Seminar

### 10 Great Buildings

By looking at “great” buildings throughout history, we will learn about the principals of architecture and the importance of materials, technology and patronage. Each week we will examine one or two important buildings and the role that innovation plays in any building.

Director



#### **Nancy McAfee** - Speaker at all Events

Nancy McAfee is an art historian who spent 18 years at the Cleveland Museum of Art as an educator and community outreach director. She has an AB from Cornell and an MA in art history from Case Western Reserve University. She is active in the Rochester Women’s Giving Circle, the MAG Gallery Council.

Event(s)

<b>03/30/2023</b>	10 Great Buildings: Architectural principals and what makes a building great
<b>04/06/2023</b>	Romans and Greeks as Engineers: Parthenon, Trajan’s Column, and the Coliseum
<b>04/13/2023</b>	Places of Worship: Angkor Wat, Chartres Cathedral, and Hagia Sophia
<b>04/20/2023</b>	Renaissance Eloquence: St. Peter’s Cathedral, Palladio’s Villa Rotunda
<b>04/27/2023</b>	20th Century Technology: Eiffel Tower, Chicago Skyscrapers, Brooklyn Bridge
<b>05/04/2023</b>	(To Be Announced)

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## 01:00 PM - 02:10 PM Seminar

### Women in Neuroscience: Discovery Through Opportunity

Diversity is important in neuroscience and neurology. Barriers can be overcome with Women in Neuroscience (WiN) opportunities. Leaders, faculty and students share perspective and progress WiN has made to build a diverse community of women that can become leaders in these fields.

Director



**Emily M. Pickens** - Speaker at all Events

Emily has been WiN's inaugural Executive Director since Dec 2020. Previously she was a neurological music therapist and operations manager for Austin's Center of Music Therapy. She has expanded WiN's programs and helped WiN grow from 8 interns in 2019 to 18 in 2022.

Event(s)

<b>03/30/2023</b>	Importance of Diversity	Emily M Pickens, David Paydarfar Richard Tapia, Michela (Micky) Marinelli, Eric Heineman, Amanda Masino
<b>04/06/2023</b>	Intro to the Damaged Brain	Michael (Mike) Mauk
<b>04/13/2023</b>	Epilepsy	Emily M Pickens, MacKenzie Howard, Martha Trevino, Dave Clarke, Teresa Ontiveros, Nerisha Pillay
<b>04/20/2023</b>	Neuroimmune Disease	Emily M Pickens, Esther Melamed, Zora Cook, Ethan Meltzer, Sabeen Toranian
<b>04/27/2023</b>	Movement Disorders	Emily M Pickens, Elizabeth Peckham, Joshua Chang, Anjana Ganesh
<b>05/04/2023</b>	Overcoming Barriers	Bella Thomas, Audrey C Brumback, Laura Colgin, Marissa Marquez, Kaelin Rubenzer, Melanie Trejo Salazar, Emily M Pickens

## 02:40 PM - 03:50 PM Seminar

### **Educating the Eye (I): Dante's Divine Comedy and Our Journey to Wholeness**

Even though it was written in the 1300s, Dante's Divine Comedy remains genuinely alive and well as a potent story, one helping us live even more authentically "examined lives" within an attitude of what poet and Dante translator John Ciardi calls "serious joy."

Director



**Daniel (Dan) Christian** - Speaker at all Events

Daniel Christian has taught Dante for nearly forty years and has published a number of essays in scholarly journals.

Event(s)

<b>03/30/2023</b>	Educating the Eye (I): A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis
<b>04/06/2023</b>	Educating the Eye (I): Dante's Divine Comedy and Our Journey to Wholeness
<b>04/13/2023</b>	Educating the Eye (I): More Key Scenes from Inferno
<b>04/20/2023</b>	Educating the Eye (I): Moving Situations from "Purgatorio"
<b>04/27/2023</b>	Educating the Eye (I): More Dramatic Scenes from "Purgatorio."
<b>05/04/2023</b>	Educating the Eye (I): A Few "Oh, My Goodness" Heavenly Encounters from "Paradiso"

## Spring 2023 Diversity Lectures

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**Thursday, March 23rd, 2023 – 9:30 AM-10:45 AM**

### **Diversity Book Discussion: Predict and Surveil**

In *Predict and Surveil*, Sarah Brayne offers an unprecedented, inside look at how police use big data and new surveillance technologies, leveraging on-the-ground fieldwork with one of the most technologically advanced law enforcement agencies in the world--the Los Angeles Police Department.



**Dr. Sarah Brayne** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at The University of Texas at Austin. She received her PhD in Sociology and Social Policy Princeton University and completed a postdoc at Microsoft Research New England. She has been a volunteer teaching college classes in classes in prisons since 2012.

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**Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 9:30 AM-10:45 AM**

### **Race, Inequality, and the U.S. Overdose Crisis**

Popular stories about the U.S. overdose crisis frame it as a problem largely faced by white communities. This talk challenges these stories by revealing how today's crisis is the latest iteration of a process by which criminalizing drugs has served as a vehicle to criminalize communities of color.



**Dr. Liz Chiarello** received her Ph.D. in sociology from UC, Irvine and completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Princeton. Her research examines how efforts to curb the drug overdose crisis have blurred boundaries between healthcare and law enforcement and what this means for patient care.