



INSTITUTE FOR
LEARNING IN
RETIREMENT

of Greater New Haven

Lifelong Learning | FALL 2026

COURSE CATALOG

Registration begins
September 1st, 9am
Classes start Sept. 14

Ready to register?

Ready to sign up for classes? Here are some tips to help:

- Registration and instructions are online at ilrnewhaven.org.
- You must be a member of ILR. If you're not sure of your membership status, check our website, ilrnewhaven.org
- Information in the printed catalog is subject to change. Please check your email and the online registration site for updated information.
- You may register for up to 4 classes during the first week. Additional classes may be registered for after that period. This approach should allow more members to enroll in popular classes.
- Registered seats in a given class are not transferable to someone else.
- Registration starts Tuesday September 1 at 9am and classes fill very quickly.
- Classes begin Monday September 14.
- If you're having a problem, see the website or call ILR at **(203) 747-9675**



Waitlist Info:

Why am I on a Waitlist?

There are so many wonderful instructors and topics each semester, that students don't always get into the class they've requested. When that happens, students might be placed on a waitlist.

ILR uses waitlists when:

- The registrants exceed the number of students the SGL has agreed to teach so he or she can achieve his or her teaching objectives;
- The venue has limits on the capacity of its rooms due to the fire-code regulations.
Students enter the waitlist in order of date and time of registration. Students receive notification that they are on the waitlist. If an enrolled student withdraws or the class is moved to a larger room, you'll be notified that a seat has become available, and you must respond to the Registrar that you accept the seat. The Curriculum Committee may reach out to the SGL to talk about their willingness to admit a few more students from the waitlist. If the SGL is amenable to adding a few students, those on the waitlist will be notified in the order of their place in the queue.
- Please note: It is not acceptable to arrive at class assuming that there may be sufficient space due to potential absences. Registered seats in each class are not transferable to someone else. The SGL and class liaison cannot make decisions like this at the time of a class. In addition, it is unfair to waitlisted students who assume they do not have a seat and therefore do not show up.
- ILR does NOT offer the option of auditing classes. ILR's administrative team appreciates your adherence to these rules to ensure smooth and conflict-free learning experiences.

Cancellation Policy

ILR cancellation policy

If a member is unable to attend one or more classes that they have registered for and would like to request a refund, they must contact the Registrar in writing (email is okay) and state which class(es) they wish to cancel.

Cancellation requests must be made at least 2 days before the first class to be eligible for a refund. No refunds will be made for cancellation requests after this time, unless there is a waitlist for this class. If there is a waitlist, ILR will contact those on the waitlist and a refund will be made if someone is able to attend in your place.

Photo Disclaimer

- By registering or attending any ILR event (class, luncheon or public gathering sponsored by ILR), you agree that photography, audio, and video recording which may occur may be used for advertising, web use, or promotional materials. If an ILR event will have photography, audio, or video recording, it will be announced at the start of the event. If you do not agree to these terms, please notify event staff you wish to opt-out.

2026 Fall Classes at a Glance

Instructor	Course Title	Genre of Course	Class type	Page
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Mithat "Mito" Mardin	F26-03 China & Japan: Historical Context with regard to the Current Relations between two East Asian Powerhouses	Political Science	In-Person Only	3
Harold Miller	F26-04 Bridge for Advanced Beginners	Games	In-Person Only	3
Rachel Ranis	F26-05 Christian Nationalism	Current Events	In-Person Only	3
Harvey Heyman	F26-06 Analysis of the 2026 Midterms	Current Events	In-Person Only	3
	Tuesday			
Joyce Saltman	F26-07 Jewish Women Who Changed the World	History	In-Person Only	4
Mithat "Mito" Mardin	F26-08 Current US and International Events	Current Events	In-Person Only	4
Leo Cristofar	F26-09 Short Hikes in The Greater New Haven Area	Health & Welfare	In-Person Only	4
Marie Musco	F26-10 Canasta review with advanced play	Games	In-Person Only	4
Annis Fusaris	F26-11 Recipes and Reminiscences	Food Adventures	In-Person Only	4
John Thomas	F26-12 A Homesteader's Lament: Making Financial and Artistic Reparations to the Descendants of the Original Occupants of the Land Where I Grew Up	Arts & Crafts Film Appreciation	In-Person Only	5
Fran Grodzinsky	F26-13 Living with AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Technology	Zoom Only	5
Eric Dunsker	F26-14 The Genius of "Weird" Al Yankovic	Music	In-Person Only	5
James Romano	F26-15 Antigone	Literature	In-Person Only	5
Ira Kleinfeld	F26-16 The Jewish Experience in Turkey	History	In-Person Only	6
	Wednesday			
James Rhodes	F26-17 James Joyce's Ulysses	Literature	In-Person Only	6
Phillip Beard	F26-18 Causes of the Great War, 1871-1914	History	In-Person Only	6
Susan Emerman	F26-19 Mah Jongg for Beginners	Games	In-Person Only	6
Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe	F26-20 Virtual Tour Down the Nile River	Travel Art History	Zoom Only	7
Alvin Wainhaus, Rabbi Emeritus	F26-21 The Third Pillar: The Bible's Impact on Western Civilization	Culture	In-Person Only	7
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Gabriella Brand	F26-22 A Short History of Swear Words	History Languages Culture	In-Person Only	7
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Hedda Kopf	F26-26 Looking Back/Looking Forward- Recent Literary Fiction	Literature	In-Person Only	8
Marcia Jamron	F26-27 "You want to know about an axe?? Collinsville, Ct. has the answer!"	Culture	In-Person Only	8
Joel Feimer	F26-28 From Literary Criticism to Visionary Poetry: Jessie Weston's "From Ritual to Romance" and T. S. Eliot's "The Wasteland."	Literature	Zoom Only	9
Byron Nakamura	F26-29 The Many Faces of Alexander the Great	History	In-Person Only	9
Kate Walton	F26-30 Nature: Evolution and Regeneration	Nature & Science	In-Person Only	9
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Nick Maiorino	F26-31 The Science of Dreams	Science	In-Person Only	9
Jerry Dunklee	F26-32 The First Amendment and You	Current Events	In-Person Only	10
Jonathan White	F26-33 Navigating Common Orthopaedic Injuries: Maintaining Bone and Muscle Health for a Healthy Life	Health & Welfare	In-Person Only	10
Patricia O'Leary	F26-34 The Art & Craft of Memory in Classical & Medieval European Cultures	History	In-Person Only	10
Lois Procopion	F26-35 Tease the Palate	Food Adventures	Zoom Only	10
Mithat "Mito" Mardin	F26-36 German Conversation	Languages	Zoom Only	10
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Sharif Kronemer	F26-37 Illusions, hallucinations, and afterimages: How the brain fools itself	Science	Zoom Only	11

Notes / Classes I want to take

MONDAY CLASSES

F26-01 Nature Poetry

SGL: Don Barkin

Sessions: 6

Dates: Monday, Sep 14, Sep 28, Oct 5, Oct 19,
Oct 26, Nov 9

Time: 11:00 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: Woodbridge Town Library

Course Fee: \$20

Nature is a steady gleam in poets' eyes. Shakespeare's plays ring with human voices in fairy woods. The Romantics were woken to deep truths by glowering mountains and groaning tides. Nature still talks to poets -- Hardy, Frost, Bishop, Plath, and Stevens. Reading these poems is like visiting your old neighborhood, both strange and achingly familiar.

F26-02 Connecticut Holocaust Rescuers

SGL: David Pettigrew

Sessions: 4

Dates: Monday, Sep 14, Sep 28, Oct 5, Oct 19

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: Southern Connecticut State University,
Engleman Hall Room D 227

Course Fee: \$20

Our course will study the relatively unknown efforts of Varian Fry, representative of the Emergency Rescue Committee, and Hiram Bingham IV, Vice Consul in charge of Visas, to rescue predominantly Jewish refugees in Marseille, 1940-41. Among those rescued were Marc Chagall, Hannah Arendt, Max Ernst, and Jacques Lipchitz. We will consider Fry's and Bingham's dedication to preserving human rights and saving lives in the face of opposition from the US State Department. Fry was eventually expelled from France by the French Police and Bingham was reassigned to Buenos Aires. Both Fry and Bingham died in relative anonymity but were posthumously recognized by Yad Vashem -- Fry as the first American to be named Righteous Among the Nations, and Bingham received a letter of commendation. What lessons can be drawn from Fry's and Bingham's courage to resist the antisemitism and xenophobia of their time?

F26-03 China & Japan: Historical Context with regard to the Current Relations between two East Asian Powerhouses

SGL: Mithat "Mito" Mardin

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Sep 28, Oct 5, Oct 19

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

This course focuses on the history of political and cultural exchanges between the #2 and #4 economies of the world in regards to current geopolitical developments.

F26-04 Bridge for Advanced Beginners

SGL: Harold Miller

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Oct 26, Nov 2, Nov 9

Time: 2:00 P - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Review of declarer play and defense

F26-05 Christian Nationalism

SGL: Rachel Ranis

Sessions: 2

Dates: Monday, Nov 9, Nov 23

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: B'nai Jacob - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

We will consider various interpretations of Christian nationalism focusing on the history, ideology, goals and tactics of the movements.

F26-06 Analysis of the 2026 Midterms

SGL: Harvey Heyman

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, Nov 30

Time: 10:30 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

Before the date of this class the 2026 Midterms will have occurred. We'll discuss the following: Were the elections free and fair? Were any major fears or concerns realized? Are the results clouded or are they clear? Is democracy's future strengthened or weakened by what is known so far? Class discussion will take place after the presentation.

TUESDAY CLASSES

F26-07 Jewish Women Who Changed the World

SGL: Joyce Saltman

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Sep 15

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 40

Location: Congregation Or Shalom

Course Fee: \$10

These women made incredible changes in the way we play, look and dress. Many will surprise you!

F26-08 Current US and International Events

SGL: Mithat "Mito" Mardin

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Sep 22, Sep 29, Oct 6, Oct 13

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 70

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Review of the current US economic indicators and global geopolitical developments (Europe/Ukraine, Middle East/Iran, Asia.)

F26-09 Short Hikes in The Greater New Haven Area

SGL: Leo Cristofar

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Sep 29, Oct 6, Oct 13, Oct 27

Time: 9:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Locations in the New Haven area to be announced

Course Fee: \$20

Short hikes of 2 to 4 miles over varied terrain are planned. Hiking boots or sneakers with good tread

are recommended and you may want to carry a walking stick. You may be walking over tree roots, stones and puddles. This is not a nature walk. Hike locations will be sent to registrants. Make-up date is November 3.

F26-10 Canasta review with advanced play

SGL: Marie Musco

Sessions: 2

Dates: Tuesday, Oct 6, Oct 13

Time: 2:00 P - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

This class is for persons wanting to advance their game. Please have some knowledge of the basic game. We will review strategies to bring your game to the top. You will have the opportunity to join with other players that have taken the beginners class.

F26-11 Recipes and Reminiscences

SGL: Annis Fusaris

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Oct 6, Oct 13, Oct 20, Oct 27

Time: 2:00 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 8

Location: Fusaris Home

Course Fee: \$20

Every recipe has a story: some are funny, some are heartfelt, and some have been passed down through generations. Join fellow ILR members for a delicious journey of sharing favorite dishes, treasured recipes, and memories stirred up along the way.

Each week, bring a dish for others to taste, along with the recipe and the story behind it. We'll begin with Week 1: Appetizers-the perfect way to whet our appetites! Future themes will be chosen by the group, so come ready to share, savor, and discover new favorites. This course will be held at Annis' home, address to be provided after registration.

F26-12 A Homesteader's Lament: Making Financial and Artistic Reparations to the Descendants of the Original Occupants of the Land Where I Grew Up

SGL: John Thomas

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Oct 20

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

My grandmother was the last homesteader in very Southern Arizona, adjacent to the US/Mexico border. At the time, courtesy of the Federal Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916, a married couple could acquire for free a square mile of land (640 acres) if within three years they made improvements (such as erecting some sort of structure and digging a well) valued at \$1.25 per acre.

I will talk about and present an early edit of my documentary film about my story and the Chiricahua Apache, who were the original occupants of that land before the federal government imprisoned or killed them and made the land available to my family.

F26-13 Living with AI (Artificial Intelligence)

SGL: Fran Grodzinsky

Sessions: 3

Dates: Tuesday, Nov 3, Nov 10, Nov 17

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This zoom course will NOT be recorded

We are all living with AI. It is embedded in our lives via our devices. It runs in our doctors' offices, banks, supermarkets, etc. We must interact with it if we are to participate in our world. It is not often we can opt out. This course will briefly touch on the development of AI and how far we have come in a short time. We will examine whether developers care whether their AI applications are serving humanity or simply putting money in their pockets. Have we lost control of AI? Rogue AI is starting to appear. How do we regain control... or can we? Soon our Amazon packages will be

delivered by a robot in a self driving van. Is this a future we want? Let's talk! Open for students who have a basic understanding of AI.

F26-14 The Genius of "Weird" Al Yankovic

SGL: Eric Dunsker

Sessions: 3

Dates: Tuesday, Nov 10, Nov 17, Nov 24

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

This course surveys the musical and videographic works of Alfred Matthew Yankovic, better known as "Weird Al". Beginning with a concise historical overview of Yankovic's career—from his emergence in the late 1970s, through his sustained cultural relevance in the MTV era and beyond—the course examines the parodilogical and stylistic framework of his songs and videos.

The majority of the course presents Yankovic parodies along with the original music videos they reference, enabling close comparative analysis. Students will learn how parody functions not merely as comedic imitation, but as commentary on popular music conventions, celebrity culture, and the music industry itself.

By the end of the course, students will hopefully gain amusement and perhaps laugh until they cry at least once, to some of the most unique popular works of the late-20th- and early-21st-centuries.

F26-15 Antigone

SGL: James Romano

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Nov 17

Time: 2:00 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Woodbridge Town Library

Course Fee: \$10

Sophocles' tragedy *Antigone* (c. 441 BCE) has inspired perhaps more adaptations in literature and theater than any other ancient drama. Its central theme, which revolves around the clash between family and religious obligations versus the demands

of state, has resonated with audiences for over 2000 years. The play assesses the consequences of moral and civil disobedience—a citizen's resistance against unjust authority. On a human level more profoundly, the conflict between the young Antigone and the autocratic Creon exposes how character defines their actions. Jim Romano will act through the play and present an analysis of this seminal work of Western literature and social philosophy.

F26-16 The Jewish Experience in Turkey

SGL: Ira Kleinfeld

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Dec 8

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 45

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

Ninety-eight percent of Turkey's current population of 86 million is Muslim, with the remainder comprised of four recognized minorities: Armenians, Greeks, Bulgarians and Jews. Today this Jewish community numbers a mere 15 – 20 thousand. This tiny current community gives little to suggest that Jewish life in Turkey was historically exceptionally vibrant, with a very much larger number of inhabitants. This class will explore that story which is astonishing and fascinating.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

F26-17 James Joyce's *Ulysses*

SGL: James Rhodes

Sessions: 6

Dates: Wednesday, Sep 30, Oct 7, Oct 14, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center

Course Fee: \$20

The aim of the course is to provide a basic understanding of *Ulysses*, to identify its major themes, especially its parallels to Homer's *Odyssey* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Although *Ulysses* is set in Ireland, Joyce is more interested in western

civilization as a whole. As the westernmost of all European capitals, Joyce's Dublin is the site where western culture in all its virtues and vices is most conspicuously on display and thus where it is best critiqued.

Text: *Ulysses the Gabler edition* Vintage Books

F26-18 Causes of the Great War, 1871-1914

SGL: Phillip Beard

Sessions: 6

Dates: Wednesday, Sep 30, Oct 7, Oct 14, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

"The lamps are going out all over Europe," said British statesman Edward Grey at the outset of war in 1914, "we shall not see them again in our lifetime." This course will study the causes for this unprecedented, and at the time, to many Europeans living in cultural rapport and economic interdependence, unthinkable engulfing conflict. This course is not a history of its combat, but a patient consideration of its causes. The course will ultimately concern the crises of the summer of 1914, but the bulk of our study will consider imperial, economic, nationalist, and arms race tensions in the decades prior to the war. Our scope is large, but the history nearly guarantees no tedium; we'll be helped by excellent writers, carefully selected in manageable readings: among them, Christopher Clark's *The Sleepwalkers*, E.J. Hobsbawm's *The Age of Empire*, and John Keegan's *The First World War*.

F26-19 Mah Jongg for Beginners

SGL: Susan Emerman

Sessions: 6

Dates: Wednesday, Oct 7, Oct 14, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4, Nov 18

Time: 2:00 P - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 12

Location: Woodbridge Town Library

Course Fee: \$20

This course will teach American Mah Jongg, a game played with tiles in a set and a card, played in groups of four. Come and learn to play and have fun while learning the basics of the game.

F26-20 Virtual Tour Down the Nile River

SGL: Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe

Sessions: 1

Dates: Wednesday, Oct 14

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$10



This Zoom course will be recorded.

Tour the Nile River from a virtual River Cruise. Our adventure begins in the Delta Valley at The Great Pyramids and the Grand Egyptian Museum. Then, we make our way down the Nile River to discover The Temple Complex of Karnak, one of the most famous Ancient Egyptian sites. We continue south and visit Esna and Dendera Temples, exploring the unique architecture and stunning color remnants inside the temples. Archaeological methods and hidden gems are all to be discovered!

F26-21 The Third Pillar: The Bible's Impact on Western Civilization

SGL: Alvin Wainhaus, Rabbi Emeritus

Sessions: 3

Dates: Wednesday, Dec 2, Dec 9, Dec 16

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Congregation Or Shalom

Course Fee: \$20

We were taught in high school that our Western way of life rests, largely, on "two ancient pillars: Greek and Roman civilization". Seldom did we hear, probably because of our teachers' respect for the principle of church-state separation, about the third ancient pillar underpinning our culture: Biblical civilization. And yet, historians remind us of the profound impact our Biblical heritage has had and continues to have on Western culture—from our urge toward social and scientific progress, to our embrace of basic human rights and universal compassion. In this 3-part series, the Rabbi will focus on three important examples of the Bible's ongoing influence on our lives.

THURSDAY CLASSES

F26-22 A Short History of Swear Words

SGL: Gabriella Brand

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, Sep 17, Sep 24, Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 15, Oct 22

Time: 9:30 A - 11:00 A

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

Profanity appears to be a universal aspect of language. How did taboo words develop and why? Why do we give weight to certain words about sex or bodily functions or the divine, and call them swears? How does profanity differ according to cultures? How has swearing evolved in American English? These are some of the questions to be examined. This course is not suitable for the easily embarrassed.

F26-23 Contemporary Literature Book Discussion

SGL: Nancy Abbey

Sessions: 3

Dates: Thursday, Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 12

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

Immigration is a world-wide contemporary issue, affecting every nation and its citizens. This book discussion will examine 3 contemporary novels that highlight the immigrant experience. Class schedule is as follows:

Sept. 17 - *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

Oct. 15 - *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Nov. 12 - *Catalina* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

F26-24 *The Golden Bough: The Talisman for Understanding Myth*

SGL: Joel Feimer

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, Sep 17, Sep 24, Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 15, Oct 22

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 25

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

The classical scholar Sir James George Frazer first published a two-volume version of his monumental work, *The Golden Bough* in 1890. Over the years, he enhanced his analysis until his final version, twelve volumes in length appeared between 1906 and 1915. An explosively controversial study when it appeared, it synthesized many mythological traditions, including the mythic structure of The Bible. Since its publications at the close of the nineteenth and commencement of the twentieth centuries, it has become a watershed for analyzing the mythic structures which inform art, literature, and, yes, even consciousness. Even in its condensed single volume form, it is almost a thousand pages long. We will attempt representative samplings of this truncated version, toward an appreciation of the nature and force of myth, with nods to Joseph Campbell and Marija Gimbutas, among others.

F26-25 *Vaccines, Unraveling Fact from Fiction*

SGL: Nils Pilotte

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Oct 15

Time: 2:00 P - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

Vaccines are one of medicine's greatest achievements, preventing countless deaths and decreasing morbidity in nearly all corners of the world. However despite these successes concerns remain about the safety and necessity of vaccines. In this course we will examine vaccine technology, vaccine efficacy and vaccine safety, hoping to separate fact from fiction.

F26-26 *Looking Back/Looking Forward- Recent*

Literary Fiction

SGL: Hedda Kopf

Sessions: 2

Dates: Thursday, Oct 22, Nov 19

Time: 2:00 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

In these two highly acclaimed novels, *The Director* by Daniel Kehlmann and *What We Can Know* by Ian McEwan, our present moment in all its complexities and challenges is filtered through other historical periods and places. *The Director* fictionalizes the life of German filmmaker G. W. Pabst and was shortlisted for the 2026 International Booker Prize. McEwan's "genre-bending" novel, and an Obama favorite of '25, takes us far into the future to remind us of our present-day responsibilities to each other and the planet. Both are great reads!

F26-27 "You want to know about an axe?? Collinsville, CT has the answer!"

SGL: Marcia Jamron

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Oct 29

Time: 11:00 A - 3:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Collinsville, CT

Course Fee: \$10

Reading about a teacher named Kristin who is a searcher of beautiful and interesting places to see in Connecticut led me to "search" for her suggestion: COLLINSVILLE, CT. She was so enthused about this little gem so easily reached from our New Haven area. First, it is on the National Register of Historical Places to visit. Collinsville is tucked along a twisting and curvy stretch of the Farmington River. It has historic buildings, riverfront settings, artistic spirit, art studios, and galleries. There are wonderful places to eat and enjoy this picturesque small town. Led by a docent, we will explore its history, its people, its excellent historical society building, and river views. Everyone will drive to the site and will receive directions closer to the date. Each person will be responsible for their own food costs. The class will cost the normal \$10.00.

Collinsville here we come to find out about that Axe!

F26-28 From Literary Criticism to Visionary Poetry: Jessie Weston's "From Ritual to Romance" and T. S. Eliot's "The Wasteland."

SGL: Joel Feimer

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, Oct 29, Nov 5, Nov 12, Nov 19, Dec 3, Dec 10

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 25

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

In a careful and inspired application of the mythic structures of reality established by J. G. Frazer's *Golden Bough* to the reading of medieval romance, Jessie Weston's *From Ritual to Romance* (1920) explores the narrative patterns of sacrifice and renewal at the nexus of medieval consciousness and poetic expression. Weston exposes the healing relevance of Anfortas, a.k.a The Fisher King, Perceval, the Grail Maiden, the Holy Grail, and the Waste Land itself, reclaiming the seemingly remote realities of the Middle Ages for the twentieth century. Two years later, T. S. Eliot found his objective correlative for the post-World War I malaise of the nineteen twenties among Weston's analyses of the mythic structures of Arthurian Romance. Their works demonstrate a startling, perhaps unexpected, symbiosis between critical theory and poetic inspiration.

F26-29 The Many Faces of Alexander the Great

SGL: Byron Nakamura

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Nov 19

Time: 11:00 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 55

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

Alexander the Great's (356-325 BCE) career is well known as the King of Macedon, unifier of the Greek city-states, conqueror of the Persian empire, and founder of the Hellenistic Kingdoms. Yet, what remains overlooked is Alexander's impact and legacy that resonated far after his death. This course will provide a brief overview of the achievements of Alexander III while he lived but will mainly concentrate on how the Macedonian

king influenced later cultures and civilizations including the Romans, Medieval Europe, and the Renaissance lasting even to the modern age.

F26-30 Nature: Evolution and Regeneration

SGL: Kate Walton

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Dec 3

Time: 2:30P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 10

Location: Yale Peabody Museum

Course Fee: \$10

The course will explore nature's magic, regenerating life at the molecular level of a single cell and making entire ecosystems resilient. Charles Darwin noticed that life excels at adapting itself to stable, predictable environmental patterns. But what happens when "Punctuated Equilibrium" occurs, as illuminated by Stephen J. Gould? Peabody Museum's Burke Hall of Dinosaurs is the backdrop for museum teacher Kate Walton's overview of what nature already "invented." When disruption occurs, humans are only beginning to understand...regeneration. How do those cute amphibians called Axolotls that live in the two lakes in Mexico regenerate entire limbs? Nature holds keys. Paleo artist Rudolf F. Zallinger's mural (1947) depicting life from about 400 million years ago to 65 million years ago gives the student a framework for thinking in vast biological terms and times.

FRIDAY CLASSES

F26-31 The Science of Dreams

SGL: Nick Maiorino

Sessions: 2

Dates: Friday, Sep 18, Sep 25

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

Dreams are one of the most fascinating and mystifying aspects of sleep. Since Sigmund Freud helped draw attention to the potential importance of dreams, considerable research has unraveled both the neuroscience and psychology of dreams.

Yet there is still much that remains unknown. Though everyone dreams, there is no simple explanation for the complex aspect of dreams. This course will explore many of the questions we have about this fascinating and little understood aspect of sleep. Topics like the following: The Science behind dreaming, What a dream actually is, Why we dream, What REM is, Types of dreams, and Sleep and dream abnormalities will all be explored.

F26-32 The First Amendment and You

SGL: Jerry Dunklee

Sessions: 3

Dates: Friday, Oct 2, Oct 9, Oct 16

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

The First Amendment affects every American but it's often misunderstood. Its elements have been interpreted by the Supreme Court repeatedly, but not consistently. This course will focus on the historic background and current state of the law.

F26-33 Navigating Common Orthopaedic Injuries: Maintaining Bone and Muscle Health for a Healthy Life

SGL: Jonathan White

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, Oct 23

Time: 10:00 A - 11:00 A

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

This presentation will cover common orthopedic injuries of the wrist, hip, knees and spine. We hope to provide education on simple solutions for injury prevention as well as management and intervention should an injury occur.

F26-34 The Art & Craft of Memory in Classical & Medieval European Cultures

SGL: Patricia O'Leary

Sessions: 3

Dates: Friday, Oct 23, Oct 30, Nov 6

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: Woodbridge Town Library

Course Fee: \$20

This course will offer an overview of how ancient philosophers and medieval teachers and preachers shared specific methods to help them master and recollect amazing amounts of information before paper and writing utensils became common. Those taking this course will have a chance to apply these methods for themselves and assess their usefulness.

This course is a repeat of the course offered last semester with the same title.

F26-35 Tease the Palate

SGL: Lois Procopion

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, Oct 30

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$10



This Zoom course will be recorded.

A collection of three yummy recipes will be presented that are appropriate for an appetizer, brunch, lunch or a light dinner.

F26-36 German Conversation

SGL: Mithat "Mito" Mardin

Sessions: 4

Dates: Friday, Nov 13, Nov 20, Dec 4, Dec 11

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 12

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

We'll continue our conversational German classes. Newcomers are welcome, basic knowledge of the language is desirable. Without prior exposure to German, you may not be able to fully enjoy this study group.

SATURDAY CLASSES

F26-37 Illusions, hallucinations, and afterimages: How the brain fools itself

SGL: Sharif Kronemer

Sessions: 1

Dates: Saturday, Dec 5

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$10



This Zoom course will be recorded.

Our perception of the world often seems to be a faithful portrayal of reality. When we see and hear a car driving by we instinctively believe there is actually a car and that we should avoid crossing in front of its path. However, sometimes perception fails to match reality - there was never a car to avoid, only a fabrication of conscious experience. These are cases of illusions, hallucinations and afterimages. This course explores the fascinating gap between reality and perception, examining how the brain constructs our experience of the world and what happens when that construction goes awry.

ZOOM INFORMATION

Zooming with ILR? Here's some things you need to know



Confirmation with the Zoom login links will be emailed two days before the class starts.

Please make sure you have it and know where to find it on the day before the class starts.

If you don't have it, send an email to info@ilrnewhaven.org or call (203) 747-9675.

Closed Caption feature for Zoom classes

After you join a Zoom meeting, look on the lower banner of your Zoom screen for the CC icon or tap on the MORE icon. To adjust the size of the text, tap on the "up" key next to CC icon. You can move the text box around on your screen, by clicking on it, and dragging it to where you want it to go.

Members of the same household who share one device (computer, tablet, or phone) only need to register and pay for one person.

If you've never used Zoom before or have a new device, please test your camera and microphone ahead of time. Click <https://zoom.us/test> to see if you have a working camera and microphone.

To log into the class with a computer or tablet, click on the link in the confirmation letter.

To log into the class with a phone, you may need to dial (646) 558-8656 and login by typing in the Meeting ID (Passcode from the confirmation letter) and Meeting passcode (Access Numbers from the confirmation letter.)

Recording of Zoom Classes: The class listing indicates whether a Zoom class will be recorded or not. The recording will be available to registrants for 30 days after a course ends. Directions for obtaining the recording will be provided by the Zoom host after the class is completed.

Venues

ACES, Hamden

205 Skiff St.
Hamden, CT 06517

Take the east driveway all the way to the back of facility. Follow the signs.

B'nai Jacob

75 Rimmon Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Congregation Or Shalom

205 Old Grassy Hill Road
Orange, CT 06477

Daniel Sullivan Educ. Ctr.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
48 South New Road
Hamden, CT 06518

Brick building behind and to the south of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 2819 Whitney Ave., Hamden.

Jewish Community Ctr.

360 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

We use different rooms at the JCC. A class liaison will tell you which room to go to.

Southern Connecticut State University

Engleman Hall Room D 227
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

Woodbridge Town Library

10 Newton Rd,
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Yale Peabody Museum

170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06520

For complete driving directions, scan QR Code or go to our website:
ilrnewhaven.org/class-locations/



Board Listing:

Your *Institute for Learning in Retirement* team is 100 percent volunteer. Classes are created, set up, and taught by volunteers. Volunteers are responsible for the financial affairs of the organization, organizing the venues, planning for the future...everything.

All of them started as members attending classes. You, too, can be part of the team of volunteers that makes ILR the exciting organization that it is. Just reach out and tell us what you'd like to do or ask where we can use help. We always need volunteers who are willing to teach, take class attendance as well as those with computer skills. Contact volunteers@ilrnewhaven.org.

Meet the leadership team at ILR:

Officers and Board of Directors

Nick Maiorino, President
Susan Vallillo, Executive Vice President
Rita Esposito, Secretary
Tema Leviter, Treasurer
David Phelps, VP-Curriculum
Marcia Jamron, VP-Curriculum
Joel Feimer, Immediate Past President

Members of the Board of Directors

Sue Cohen	Pat Donohue
Annis Fusaris	Deborah Kasowitz
Robin Lewis	Jean Maatta
Pat Maiorino	Mito Mardin
Debbie McKeever	Linda Sheehan
Donna Wesolowski	

Registrar

Cheryl Cape



Study Group Leaders (SGL) Biographies

Nancy Abbey

F26-23 Contemporary Literature Book Discussion

Nancy Abbey recently retired after 16 years as the Assistant Director of Milford Public Library. She facilitated a popular Classic Book Group for 14 of those 16 years, and continues in this role.

Don Barkin

F26-01 Nature Poetry

Don Barkin received his BA from Harvard College and his MA in English literature from Cambridge U. He has taught undergraduate seminars in poetry and prose writing at Yale for several years, and at Wesleyan's Graduate Liberal Studies Program. He has published three books of poems that have also appeared in national magazines, and is a former schoolteacher and newspaper reporter.

Phillip Beard

F26-18 Causes of the Great War, 1871-1914

Phillip L Beard has an M.A. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and has taught at Auburn University, and in its abroad program in Vienna, Austria. He has also taught American Literature as a Fulbright Scholar at Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany. He has published articles on American literature and philosophy and is a senior editor of the George Santayana Society.

Gabriella Brand

F26-22 A Short History of Swear Words

Gabriella Brand is a bilingual educator, writer, and public speaker. She has over thirty years' experience as a teacher of French language and literature. In addition, she has served as an intern at the United Nations during her university years. She was a program director at an Alliance Francaise. She holds a diploma from the Universite de Neuchatel, Switzerland and an MA in French pedagogy from Middlebury College, Vermont.

Leo Cristofar

F26-09 Short Hikes in The Greater New Haven Area

Leo Cristofar has led hikes in and around Connecticut for more than twenty-five years.

Jerry Dunklee

F26-32 The First Amendment and You

Jerry Dunklee is a journalism professor emeritus at Southern Connecticut State University where he taught Media Law and Ethics for 35 years. He was a member of the Society of Professional Journalists national ethics committee for 12 years and helped write the 1996 edition of the Code of Ethics. He is a co-author of *The Power of Free Expression in America*, a textbook, and worked as a reporter and talk show host for 20 years prior to teaching. He graduated from Michigan State and holds a master's degree from Emerson College. Jerry was inducted into the CT Journalism Hall of Fame in 2010.

Eric Dunsker

F26-14 The Genius of "Weird" Al Yankovic

Eric is no musicologist, but he has been a fan of "Weird" Al Yankovic since he first heard "My Bologna" and "Another One Rides the Bus" back in the early '80s. His interest has risen and fallen with newer releases over the decades, but his amusement and respect for "Weird" Al's craft have never waned.

Susan Emerman

F26-19 Mah Jongg for Beginners

I have played Mah Jongg since 1967. It's a fun game. I recently taught it at a local library and now have time to teach it at ILR.

Joel Feimer

F26-24 *The Golden Bough: The Talisman for Understanding Myth*

F26-28 *From Literary Criticism to Visionary Poetry: Jessie Weston's "From Ritual to Romance" and T. S. Eliot's "The Wasteland."*

Joel N. Feimer PhD taught undergraduate and graduate level English Literature and Composition at Mercy College in New York from 1967 to 2010. He earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from the City University of New York in 1983. He has published several essays on topics in Medieval and Modern Literature and co-edited a text for composition with his former colleague at Mercy College, Howard Canaan. He began teaching for ILR in the spring of 2015 and has served as President on its Board of Directors.

Annis Fusaris

F26-11 *Recipes and Reminiscences*

Annis Fusaris is a retired registered nurse who was dubbed the "milk and cookie nurse" by her coworkers at a psychiatric facility. She understood that even something as simple as hunger, or being "hangry," could become a source of psychological stress, and she made sure comfort and care were always part of her approach.

Fran Grodzinsky

F26-13 *Living with AI (Artificial Intelligence)*

Frances S. Grodzinsky PhD is Professor Emerita Computer Science and Information Technology at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and Past Co-Director of the Hersher Institute of Ethics.

Harvey Heyman

F26-06 *Analysis of the 2026 Midterms*

Harvey Heyman retired in 2022 from a career in the business side of healthcare. He received a BA from Brown University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. He is a passionate consumer of news of political, social and cultural events.

Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe

F26-20 *Virtual Tour Down the Nile River*

Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe is a seasoned expert in ancient history and art education with over 25 years experience. Holding dual degrees in Egyptology and Roman Archaeology from

the University of Michigan and a Master's from Harvard University in Art and Museum Education, she spent two decades working at NYC's top art museums. Marisa now offers exclusive private tours at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and dynamic enrichment programs to schools and community centers.

Marcia Jamron

F26-27 *"You want to know about an axe??"*

Collinsville, CT has the answer!"

Marcia Jamron has been fascinated by travel since early childhood. College, followed by family duties, have not dulled the anticipation of a new place to see and learn all about. She applies this urge to look for new and different places to the ILR bus and zoom trips she plans and conducts.

Ira Kleinfeld

F26-16 *The Jewish Experience in Turkey*

Ira Kleinfeld earned his BS, MS and Eng. Sc.D. from Columbia University. He served as a professor of industrial engineering and associate provost for graduate studies research and faculty development at the University of New Haven where he initiated UNH's annual Holocaust Remembrance event. He continues to chair the planning committee as professor emeritus. He is still active at UNH, teaching courses, and being engaged in a variety of projects.

Hedda Kopf

F26-26 *Looking Back/Looking Forward- Recent Literary Fiction*

Hedda Kopf taught literature and gender studies at Quinnipiac University for more than three decades. She continues to develop and lead book discussions at ILR as well as at several public libraries and other institutions in Connecticut. Hedda volunteers as a reading mentor in a New Haven public school and is the author of *Understanding Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources and Historical Documents*.

Sharif Kronemer

F26-37 *Illusions, hallucinations, and afterimages: How the brain fools itself*

Sharif I. Kronemer, PhD is a Research Fellow at the National Institutes of Health studying the brain mechanisms of conscious perception in health and impairment. Sharif was a former

graduate student in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program at Yale University.

Nick Maiorino

F26-31 The Science of Dreams

Nick Maiorino, a member of ILR for 9 years, is a life-long learner with more than 60 years of teaching experience. He holds a BS degree in Education; MS degree in Statistics, Measurement and Evaluation; 6th Year Certificate in Administration and Supervision; and advanced degrees in the sciences. While his main focus is science, he has offered courses in his many other interests such as history, music, and current events. He currently serves on the ILR Board of Governors and the Curriculum Committee.

Mithat “Mito” Mardin

F26-03 China & Japan: Historical Context with regard to the Current Relations between two East Asian Powerhouses

F26-08 Current US and International Events

F26-36 German Conversation

Mithat “Mito” Mardin PhD was born in Istanbul, Turkey and is a graduate of the German High School there. He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen. He worked at Bayer Pharmaceuticals for 33 years in various positions starting as laboratory head and retiring as VP. He has worked on three continents: Europe, Japan/ Asia Pacific, and the US. He has served as president of the Japan Society of Fairfield County from 2012 to 2020 and as ILR president for three terms and he has followed his passion for political science. He enjoys being a study group leader and sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy, Islam, and current world affairs in general.

Harold Miller

F26-04 Bridge for Advanced Beginners

Harold Miller, Bridge Life Master, is a retired CPA and native of New Haven and teaches the basics of bridge for beginners.

Marie Musco

F26-10 Canasta review with advanced play

Marie Musco is a retired nurse and has been a resident of Orange for 45 years. She enjoys teaching the game to friends and family.

Byron Nakamura

F26-29 The Many Faces of Alexander the Great

Byron Nakamura, PhD is a professor of History at Southern Connecticut State University, where he has taught courses on ancient Greece and Rome since 2004. He has written on subjects such as Roman imperialism, ancient religion, military history, and has a keen interest in Roman numismatics (coinage).

Patricia O’Leary

F26-34 The Art & Craft of Memory in Classical & Medieval European Cultures

Trish O’Leary a former columnist for The Milford-Orange Times, has been writing profiles of notable Orange citizens for over 10 years. In her column “Grave Matters,” she focused on people buried in the Orange Cemetery whose tales entwined with town history. She leads memoir-writing courses at The Orange Senior Center and co-authored with Pat Miller “Grave Matters/Early Voices,” a play produced in honor of the town’s 200th birthday. They are currently collaborating on a sequel.

David Pettigrew

F26-02 Connecticut Holocaust Rescuers

David Pettigrew, Ph.D., is a CSU Professor and Chair, Philosophy Department, Southern Connecticut State University. Pettigrew has taught at SCSU since 1987 and he created a Holocaust and Genocide Studies course in 2013. In 2019, he was appointed to the Connecticut Holocaust and Genocide Education Advisory Committee.

Nils Pilotte

F26-25 Vaccines, Unraveling Fact from Fiction

Nils Pilotte, is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. Dr. Pilotte is a molecular biologist who studies the genetics and DNA structure of disease causing parasites. He is interested in understanding the mechanisms of inheritance in parasitic organisms and how these inheritance patterns contribute to pathogenicity.

Lois Procopion***F26-35 Tease the Palate***

Lois Procopion was born in New Britain, Connecticut. She received her BS Degree from CCSU. She retired as a Project Manager at Aetna Healthcare in 2014. For the past 48 years, Lois has been an active Justice of the Peace. She has been a gourmet cook for over 50 years and has won first prize in various local baking competitions.

Rachel Ranis***F26-05 Christian Nationalism***

Rachel Ranis has sociology degrees from Brandeis and Yale universities. Her research on social welfare issues, aging and vocational education has taken her to Pakistan, Mexico, Columbia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. She taught at the University of Bridgeport, the University of Maryland, Howard University and is retired from Quinnipiac University.

James Rhodes***F26-17 James Joyce's Ulysses***

Jim Rhodes PhD graduated from Holy Cross College as a philosophy major and earned his PhD from Fordham University specializing in Medieval Literature and the works of James Joyce. He taught for many years in the English Department at Southern Connecticut State University and is the author of the book *Poetry Does Theology: Chaucer, Grosseteste, and the Pearl Poet*.

James Romano***F26-15 Antigone***

Jim Romano earned a PhD in Classical Studies from the University of Michigan. He taught Classics for several years at Michigan and at Lehman College (CUNY). He subsequently entered the nonprofit world as an executive in two major health-related foundations. In retirement, he has gone back to his educational roots and lectures on Homer, classical poetry and drama.

Joyce Saltman***F26-07 Jewish Women Who Changed the World***

Joyce M. Saltman, Ed.D. has been given the title Guru Of Laughter by one of America's foremost Insurance Companies. She is a Professor Emeritus of Special Education at Southern Connecticut State University where she taught graduate courses on Special Education since 1975, and The Enhancement of Learning through Humor, as well as directed a summer Institute on Healing, Education, Laughter and Play (H.E.L.P.) for 29 summers. She lectures all over the country plus in Japan, Norway, Australia, England, Italy and Belgium, on Laughter, Rx for Survival, Dealing with Difficult People, Sex and Aging, and Learning Styles. She has shared her insights into laughter with hospitals, corporations, school systems, and other organizations throughout the world. She has spoken extensively on such topics as Learning Styles for At-Risk Students and Counseling Skills for Special Educators throughout the country, most notably for the US Department of Education in Washington, DC. In addition, two of her books - *Sing A Celebration* and *I'm Changing the Locks and Cementing the Windows - What To Do When Your Kid Leaves Home* have been published.

John Thomas***F26-12 A Homesteader's Lament: Making Financial and Artistic Reparations to the Descendants of the Original Occupants of the Land Where I Grew UP***

John Thomas LLB is a freelance writer, professor at the Quinnipiac University School of Law in Hamden, Connecticut, and performing guitarist. John teaches international law and health law. John's 200+ publications address topics from gun violence to health policy, politics, autism, juvenile justice, and music and musical instruments and have appeared in law reviews, medical journals, major newspapers, a wide range of music magazines, and the Oxford Dictionary of Music.

Alvin Wainhaus, Rabbi Emeritus***F26-21 The Third Pillar: The Bible's Impact on Western Civilization***

Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, son of Holocaust survivors, was raised in an Orthodox environment in Brooklyn. A graduate of Brooklyn College with a degree in philosophy, he was ordained in Israel in 1972 and earned a Master of Education degree from NYU. He served congregations in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and in Manhattan prior to becoming the Rabbi of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, CT. After his retirement in 2025, he assumed the title of Rabbi Emeritus. Rabbi Wainhaus is highly regarded as a spiritual leader and lecturer on a wide range of subjects.

Kate Walton***F26-30 Nature: Evolution and Regeneration***

Kate Johns Walton majored in Anthropology and obtained teaching certification while attending Goddard College. She obtained her Master's Degree in Museum Education from George Washington University with field work done at the Smithsonian. As a graduate intern she was appointed Museum Teacher by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Museum of Comparative Zoology and the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. She later developed and managed "You and Your World" Summer Program at Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale and worked full time as a professional docent in the School Services Division there. Kate has lived and worked extensively in Africa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and teaching high school biology and English in Kenya while working with Richard Leakey to create school museums that helped local populations collect and preserve important natural materials from their own ancestral environments.

Jonathan White***F26-33 Navigating Common Orthopaedic Injuries: Maintaining Bone and Muscle Health for a Healthy Life***

This course will feature speakers who are medical students at the Yale School of Medicine with clinical interests in orthopedic surgery and physical medicine and rehabilitation. They have diverse research interests that have mostly focused on orthopedic surgery outcomes based on varied preoperative conditions.

Contact Us

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