

OSHER
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LEARNING
INSTITUTE

Spring NEW CLASSES

APRIL | MAY 2022

The Constitution: Is It Good for Democracy? with Steve Berardo

Tuesdays, April 26, May 3, (skip 10) 17, 24
1:30PM—3:00PM \$45 Max: 35

Our Constitution was written 235 years ago and is the oldest written constitution still in practice in the world. Over the last several years many important questions have been raised:

- Can the federal government legally enforce health and safety measures (such as wearing masks or taking vaccines) in response to pandemics when they are opposed by state and local governments, as well as many citizens?
- Does the Constitution adequately protect voting rights?
- Is the Electoral College obsolete, and what would be required to eliminate it?
- Do the Judicial and Executive Branches of the federal government exercise more power than granted to them in the Constitution?
- The Constitution says nothing about important issues such as abortion, immigration, electronic media, pandemics, etc. Should it be revised to address those issues?
- Are some institutions, such as the U.S. Senate and the Supreme Court, fundamentally undemocratic?



This course will focus on these issues, as well as the pros/cons of rewriting, abolishing, or keeping the Constitution. Louis Michael Seidman, in his book *On Constitutional*

Disobedience, argues that modern America should not be bound by a Constitution written in 1787, no matter how good it was at that time. A number of other prominent lawyers and scholars have also argued that we should either abolish or greatly amend the Constitution. We will also examine the experience of other pluralistic democracies, some of whom have no written constitutions.

For the first class: Read the Constitution, including the Amendments, and the Declaration of Independence

Required texts:

The U.S. Constitution and Amendments; The Declaration of Independence; The Articles of Confederation

Stephen Berardo has a master's degree in public administration and is a student of history and political systems. He is a planning consultant and has been an adjunct and full-time college faculty member teaching courses in business administration and aviation. He has also worked for many years with local, state, and federal government agencies on a variety of land use and infrastructure development issues.



Roger Williams Park Botanical Center Tour

Thursday, May 19, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
\$20 Max: 15

The Roger Williams Park Botanical Center is New England's largest glasshouse garden, with more than 23,000 square feet of display space for a wide variety of plants, including orange trees, a carnivorous plant bog, and an arid desert. The outdoor gardens include a rose maze, perennial gardens, edible forest, and a pollinator garden. The Botanical Center focuses on ecological practices including using beneficial insects to decrease pest problems, leaving leaves in the fall to create habitats for native insects and pollinators, reducing the use of carbon-producing equipment like mowers and leaf blowers by allowing grassy areas to become low-mow or meadows, and allowing plants to grow in a more natural manner rather than intense maintenance and pruning for perfection. There are also three goats on the property to help control poison ivy and invasive plant species.

Note: The tour is accessible, but there is a slight incline on the walk from the ticket booth to the Conservatory. Directions will be provided to those who register.

5 New Spring Classes!

Flip for more! →



The Ukraine Crisis

with Jim Buxton
 Tuesday, April 26,
 1:30PM-3:30PM \$20

Are you watching the ominous news about Russia and Ukraine? Do you feel you are missing some historical context regarding the issues? What touched off the more recent conflict between the two? We'll discuss how the following come into play: demographics, denuclearization, access to Black Sea, NATO, Russification, the Obama and Trump policies and more. There will be some time at the end for the audience to evaluate policy options.

Jim Buxton taught at South Kingstown HS for 32 years focusing on global studies and international relations. Between 2009 and 2020, he taught international politics at URI. Since 2012, he has taught many OLLI courses: the Arab Spring, the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Nuclear Proliferation, Costa Rica, Iraq and Iran, Syria and the ISIL crisis. He has also worked in the education department at Salve Regina, teaching an introduction to American education and supervising social studies student teachers.

3 Ways to Register!

1. Online: URIOLLI.AUGUSOFT.NET
2. CALL 401-874-4197
3. MAIL IN FORM

Playing with Shakespeare: How Rude!

with Laurie Heineman
 Monday, May 16, 11:30-1:00PM \$15 Max: 20

Forget your manners and play with some old and new, bizarre, and ribald insults with the help of William Shakespeare. We will examine some, use some, and maybe even try some sweet talk after the insulting is done. Pure Fun.

Laurie Heineman is a teacher, actor, and catalyst. Emmy Award winner, she has offered *Playing with Shakespeare* at libraries and schools with multi-age and ability groups, seniors, students, and corporate and private parties. Having fun with classics and gaining understanding is her goal.

Kinney Azalea Gardens

with Susan Gordon
 Friday, May 20, 10:00AM-11:00AM \$20 Max: 15

In this course, participants will be given a brief history of the Kinney Azalea Gardens followed by a private tour of the grounds. During the tour they will discuss the garden as a horticultural collection and a living ecosystem. Susan Gordon, the resident horticulturalist, will explain management practices for maximizing native biodiversity and controlling exotic invasive species.



The group will meet at the site. Directions to the site will be made available to those who register for the tour.

*In case of inclement weather, we will make every effort to reschedule.

Susan Gordon holds an M.S. and a Ph.D. in plant sciences from URI. For forty-three years she has served as horticulturalist at the Kinney Azalea Gardens. She has taught woody plant identification for URI horticulture and landscape architecture programs for thirty years, as well as introductory courses in botany and the physiology of flowering. Sue is former president of the R.I. Nursery & Landscape Association (RINLA) and has served as chair/instructor for the RINLA certification program.

OLLI Course Registration - SPRING Add-Ons

Name (one member per form) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Renewal Date: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

- The Ukraine Crisis \$20
- The Constitution: Is it Good for Democracy? \$45
- Kinney Azalea Garden Tour \$20
- Roger Williams Botanical Center Tour \$20
- Playing with Shakespeare: How Rude! \$15

Classes _____ Amount \$ _____

Payment Method: Check (Payable to URI) # _____

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