



AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.berkshireolli.org

Spring 2023 Courses



April 10 - May 22

Registration opens Feb 21. Open House March 16!
Classes marked limited registration may fill up quickly.

Course are held online and in-person at Berkshire Community College (BCC), 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA; St. James Place, 352 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA; and The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St, Williamstown, MA. All indoor spaces are ADA Accessible.

Most courses held online are recorded so if you miss one, or your schedule doesn't work for a particular course, you can request recordings and watch the class sessions on your own time. **(Note: in-person classes are not recorded.)**

We participate in the Card to Culture program and offer scholarships. To learn more go to berkshireolli.org/Scholarships or call 413-236-2190.

We look forward to seeing you!

Join OLLI at BCC

OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College, is a membership program that provides a variety of free and affordable learning, social, and volunteer opportunities designed especially by and for people 50+ (but anyone can join!)

No tests, no grades, just learning for the joy of learning

How to register

To register for our Spring 2023 Semester, visit berkshireolli.org or call 413-236-2190.

For full course descriptions and to register online go to: berkshireolli.org/Spring23

Contact OLLI

www.berkshireolli.org

email: olli@berkshirecc.edu

Office hours:

M - F, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 413-236-2190



Monday

Successful Aging: Empowering Late Life Decision-Making

Instructor: Carolyn Siewers

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Location: Zoom

Class discussions will include starting conversations with loved ones about your health care and end of life wishes, aging well at home and the new technologies that enable us to do so, balancing autonomy with the need for help; and much more.

Today's Headlines

Instructor: Len Tabs

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Location: Zoom

Today's Headlines is a moderated discussion course that provides an opportunity to voice your opinions on national and international issues.

The Algonkian Language: A Window into Indigenous Culture

Instructor: Michael Forbes Wilcox

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Location: Zoom

The language we use reveals our values, and the words we hear help to shape our beliefs. This course will examine the Algonkian language, which provides a window into the mindset of the people indigenous to the Berkshires.

Shakespeare in Opera

Instructor: Christine Casey

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Location: Zoom

Many composers have adapted the plays of Shakespeare into operas. This class will compare and contrast operas by different composers, and present a slideshow with audio excerpts on each opera.

Tuesday

Only A Game?: An Inquiry into the Significance of Sports

Instructor: Tom Hodgson

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. EST

Seven Sessions - 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23

Limit: 25 in person, 25 on Zoom

Location: Hybrid (BCC and Zoom)

Extraordinary amounts of time, money, and emotion are invested in playing, watching, and analyzing sports. In this course, we will attempt to understand some of the ways sports allow us to engage with five important dimensions of human life: hierarchy, elevation, community, understanding, and legacy.

From First to Final Draft

Instructor: Lou-Ellen Barkan

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16

Limit: 10 **Location:** Zoom

Participants will use the art and craft of storytelling to transform their personal stories into ones that connect with readers. As participants work, from first to final draft, we will review the basics of storytelling, share and gently critique each other's work and, at the last session, explore opportunities for publication.

Moby-Dick

Instructor: Richard Maturro

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16

Limit: 80 **Location:** In-Person at BCC

Whether you are a longtime fan, or a procrastinator who always intended to read it, this is your invitation to climb aboard the Pequod for the voyage of a lifetime, along with a personal introduction to our erstwhile neighbor, Herman Melville, who lived right here in Pittsfield when he penned the haunting, timeless story of the mystical White Whale.

Federico Garcia Lorca: His Drama and his Poetry

Instructor: Peter Podol

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. EST

Federico Garcia Lorca (cont.)

Five Sessions - 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9

Location: Zoom

We will read and analyze his plays *The Love of Don Perlimplín* and *Belisa in the Garden*, *Blood Wedding*, *Yerma*, and *The House of Bernarda Alba*, and a selection of poetry. There will be an opportunity to act out some scenes from the plays, and we will also watch a great performance of *The House of Bernarda Alba* with Glenda Jackson and Joan Plowright.

Tai Chi For Wellness

Instructor: Mario Leone

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16

Limit: 8 **Location:** In-person at BCC

Tai Chi is an excellent way to improve physical and mental health and reduce stress.

Wednesdays

Native Peoples of the Americas: The Ancient Ones

Instructor: Laurie Weinstein

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17

Limit: 15 **Location:** In-person at BCC

This course will look at the roots of American cultures including origins, migrations, networks, resource use and technologies, sacred stories and landscapes. Well-known sites in the American Southwest, New England and the Plains will show how Native expertise ensured survival in some of the harshest environments.

Scorn Not the Sonnet

Instructor: Mary Ellen Verdi

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17

Limit: 25 **Location:** In-person at BCC

We will discuss sonnet form and how knowledge of that structure enhances our understanding and appreciation of the rich range of emotions and themes explored through centuries of poets.

The Leadership Vacuum: Consequences for Society and for Ourselves

Instructor: Steven Noble

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST

Four Sessions - 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3

Limit: 20 **Location:** In-person at BCC

How do we assess true, resonating leadership for leaders... as well as for their followers? This is our core question. A second goal will be exploring our own leadership styles, successes, and challenges.

Spring Wildflower Walks in South County

Instructor: Elizabeth Dillman

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17

Limit: 15 **Locations:** Various

Every spring, our beautiful Berkshire trails come alive with colorful flowers, changing each week. We will hunt for and identify them at various properties in South County. Learn about the spring ephemeral flowers as we enjoy a beautiful spring walk.

The Eyes Have It: Comparisons

Instructor: Jock Brooks

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Four Sessions - 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10

Limit: 20 **Location:** In-person at The Clark Art Institute

This 4-part course is to be held at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown and will range through the entire collection: painting, sculpture, prints, and drawings.

Active French: Interactive French Dialogues

Instructor: Gloria Finkelstein

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. EST

Four Sessions - 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3

Limit: 20 **Location:** Zoom

Looking for an immersive fun experience? Enjoy a virtual interactive adventure to France and Quebec. Let's practice reading and easy-to-follow French travel conversational dialogues.

Vegan Cooking

Instructor: Janet Forest

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. EST

Four Sessions - 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3

Limit: 20 **Location:** In-person at BCC

Reducing our meat consumption is good for our health and the environment, but diving into a vegan or vegetarian diet can be overwhelming. If you are looking to do more plant-based eating and need some inspiration, this four-session course will help you get started!

Thursdays

African Rooted Dance

Instructor: Noel Staples Freeman

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. EST

Four Sessions - 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4

Limit: 20 **Location:** In-person at BCC

This course will teach the introduction of African rooted dance techniques from the African Diaspora using steps that are easy to follow. It is designed for people of all skill levels. Students will be actively dancing and drumming.

The Fog and Pain of American History Wars

Instructors: Stacey L. Wallach with Kate Kidd and John Dickson

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

Location: Zoom

Writers of both general textbooks and specialized studies must inevitably make editorial decisions as to what gets included and what gets left out. Often, we are faced with contradictory versions of historical actors, trends, and events, much of which appear to be factual to at least some degree. We will look at conflicts and their aftermaths to see through the fog of these history wars to some larger truths.

Poetry and the Divided Heart

Instructor: Don Barkin

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

Limit: 15 **Location:** In-person, St. James Place

In this course, we will read poetry that goes deep because it lets itself feel on both sides of a question. We'll read modern and classic poets such as Shakespeare, Keats, Dickinson, Heaney and Elizabeth Bishop.

Evolution, The Idea

Instructor: Steven Somkin

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

Limit: 25 **Location:** In-person, St. James Place

After an introduction to the Darwinian idea as expressed in *The Origin of Species*, the course will examine its roots and ramifications, its glories and corruptions, its promises and passions.

Artificial Intelligence for Regular People

Instructors: Melba Kurman and Hod Lipson

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. EST

Five Sessions - 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

Location: Zoom

In five jargon-free class sessions, this course aims to help regular people understand modern AI. Course sessions will cover the past and future of AI, why older forms of AI failed to deliver, and where modern AI and self-guided robots are headed.

Fridays

Berkshire Previews

Instructors: Naomi Spatz and Guests

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. EST

Five Sessions - 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12

Limit: 25 for in person, no limit on Zoom

Location: Hybrid (BCC and Zoom)

What awaits us on the summer stages in 2023? Artistic Directors are at work on the tentative 2023 season. Join us for a perspective on the local performing arts from a critics panel and a close-up of the new season from ten local artistic directors.

Science Conversations

Instructor: Hank Gold

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST

Six Sessions - 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19

Location: Zoom

Join us to discuss science news appearing in the Tuesday "Science Times" section of *The New York Times*, plus magazines and journals.

Sequencing the Human Genome, How We Got There and What Does It Mean

Instructor: Howard Arkans

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Five Sessions - 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12

Limit: 25 for in person, no limit on Zoom

Location: Hybrid (BCC and Zoom)

We will review the history of genetics from Gregor Mendel's initial experiments to the identification of chromosomes, to the description of the Watson/Crick double helix structure of DNA. We will then learn about the sequencing of the human genome, examples of the benefits of sequencing the genome, and possible future applications.