



Baldwin Wallace University

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Institute for Learning in Retirement – East

2026 Fall Quarter Schedule

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The Fall Term will begin on Tuesday, September 29 and run for 6 weeks, ending on Thursday, November 5. There will also be single-session presentations during this period. Classes will be given at TEMPLE EMANUEL, at 4545 Brainard Road, Orange Village, Ohio 44022, just north of Emery Rd. Please note that registration is by postal mail only. To receive registration material if you are not currently on the mailing list, fill out the information request form or call 440-826-2400.

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Art in Focus

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

ZOOM COURSE

Presenter: Michael J. Kaplan, J.D.

Why, when there are so many headlines to ignore every day, should we make time for the visual arts? Perhaps because they aren't just pretty pictures -- although many may qualify as that. Perhaps there is something up there on the wall which helps each of us understand who we are and where we are. And how it all connects together. And maybe, that's something that's important right now.

The challenge, of course, is to know where to look -- and to really see what is there before your eyes. That's the challenge, and the reward that awaits us. You just have to be willing to let yourself. (See you Tuesday)

The Gilded Age – Contrasting Visions: J.P Morgan and Eugene V. Debs.

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.

Presenter: Laura Blunk, Ph.D.

After passing through the Civil War the United States found itself facing another division: that between the new wealthy class produced by the industrial revolution and the growing industrial working class. This course will cover the Gilded Age in the United States (1870-1900) through the lives and actions of industrialist J.P. Morgan and labor leader Eugene Victor Debs. A few other actors such as Samuel Gompers and John.D. Rockefeller will also appear.

Busted! - How and Why Things Break

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Presenter: James Marder, Ph.D.

Engineering failures are just a headline for most people. We will use historical failures of ships, bridges, buildings and airplanes to show how failure analyses are performed, and what we can learn from them. They are lessons to engineers and scientists so that future mistakes can be avoided. Some famous, and not so famous failures will be reviewed and analyzed. The recent, tragic implosion of the Titan submarine is one example to be covered. On the way, basic tools of materials engineering and failure analysis will be introduced.

And Justice for All

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Presenter: Janet Coccaro, Ph.D.

In 1844, a Parisian weekly periodical began the serialized publication of Alexandre Dumas' novel The Count of Monte Cristo. It enthralled readers instantly as they avidly followed the adventures of young Edmond Dantes.

The plot twists and numerous themes are interwoven to create a web of betrayal and revenge as Dantes navigates conspiracies, corruption, greed, and romance. As we read the novel, our discussions will focus on the characters and the themes of deceit, injustice, and redemption in this timeless account that still captivates readers today.

Text: The Count of Monte Cristo, unabridged, by Alexandre Dumas

Cleveland Rocks! (And So Do You!)

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Presenter: Gerry Nemeth

We will cover all of what makes Cleveland the Rock & Roll capital of the world! We will look at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum (how and why we got it, how we almost lost it, the grand opening in 1995 and the years that the induction ceremonies were held in Cleveland). We will look at the Beatles in Cleveland (1964 and 1966), the World Series of Rock concerts (1974-1980) and other iconic concerts. We will look at the important Rock & Roll radio stations (WIXY, WMMS, WNCX) and radio personalities. I plan to bring in musicians and other VIPs to enhance the class. Prizes and a few surprises!

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 continued

A Shakespeare Journey Continued

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. for 5 weeks

Presenter: Marge Geiger, Ph.D.

One of the greatest poets and dramatists of all times did not create in a vacuum. He was heir to and impacted by social, political, economic, poetic, and theatrical realities both prior to and concurrent to his years as a creative master. The ILR 2025-2026 season was devoted to showing how the previous realities played out in some of Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies, and histories. The focus this Fall will be on *The Tempest*, one of the plays that literary historians like to group under "Romances." Welcome to the world of magic, music, and pageantry. A combination of subtitled video and class discussions will make the play entirely accessible. Join and become acquainted with *The Tempest*. Or if you have already met Prospero, Miranda, Caliban, and Ariel, see what else you can discover that you may not have already considered.

TV Game Show Fun!

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Presenter: Gerry Nemeth

We will look at the history of the TV game show genre which started on the radio. Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Password, and much more. We will have the opportunity to play simulated versions of famous TV game shows. Prizes and a few surprises!

WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

How Confederate Lost Cause Mythology Evolved in American History and Popular Culture

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Presenter: Patrick Bray

At the end of the Civil War the South was devastated. White supremacists needed a new narrative, one which played down slavery, to present to the modernizing Western world. Thus, in the late 19th century and throughout most of the 20th the Lost Cause tradition manifested itself in monuments, art, textbooks, novels, and especially in popular media such as movies and television. We will explore how this came to be, how it was rolled back in the early 21st century, and how it seeks to reestablish itself today.

Heaven on Earth: American Utopian Communities

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Presenter: Samuel Barnett

America has provided fertile ground for trying to create the perfect society. We will trace the history of some of these experiments in living through their rise and fall. Along the way, we will ask, What is it that these experiments are really after? What is it that the Ephrata Cloister, the Shakers, New Harmony, the Oneida community, the Fourierists, the Amana Colonies, and the Zoar community here in Ohio have in common and what do they teach us about our own lives today?

Some of the Single Session Classes occur here (see last page)

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

The Universe Today – What We Know, What We Think We Know, and What's Still a Mystery.

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Presenter: Carl Sieke, M.S.

The universe is full of fascinating things – much more than planets, stars, and galaxies. In this course we'll take a deep look into the contents of the universe. Starting with our own solar system, we'll see what our space probes have shown us in their journeys to planets, asteroids, comets, and beyond. We'll find out what our amazing space telescopes have discovered in the furthest reaches of the observable universe. Fasten your seat belts.

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026

Politics and Election 2026

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Election Day is November 3, 2026. Some people think that will be an important day. And some people might be interested in knowing more about it.

IN PERSON

Presenter: Michael J. Kaplan, J.D.

Defining Moments in the History of British Monarchy

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Presenter: Teresa Marano, Ph.D.

The monarchy guided the development of Great Britain as a nation through unifying territories, centralizing state institutions, and establishing a constitutional system. This course will discuss the involvement of the British monarchy in events that defined the development of the nation including the signing of the Magna Carta, the English Reformation, the English Civil War, and the Glorious Revolution and the English Bill of Rights. The discussion will include the influence these events had on the founding of the American colonies by English settlers.

Landmarks of Russian History

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Presenter: James Krukones, Ph.D.

This course examines the history of Russia from its beginnings to the revolutions of 1917. Each of the meetings focuses on a significant development in the unfolding of Russia's past: the conversion of Russia to Christianity in the 10th century; the Mongol invasions of the 1200s; the rise of Muscovy to leadership over competing Russian principalities; the reign of Peter the Great and the creation of the modern Russian state; and the revolutionary movement, which culminated in the overthrow of the tsarist regime and the creation of Soviet Russia.

Robert Redford – Actor and Director Part Two

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Presenter: William Rafalski

This course is the second half of the Robert Redford class I presented in the Spring. In this course we will watch and discuss 6 movies. The first movie shown will be the hit comedy *The Sting* with Paul Newman. The 2nd movie we will watch is *The Candidate* with Peter Boyle and Melvyn Douglas, a bittersweet comedy about elections. The 3rd movie we will screen is the drama about a mid-1800s mountain man, *Jeremiah Johnson*. The 4th film we will watch is a movie based on the prize-winning novel, *The Horse Whisperer* with Kristin Scott Thomas and Scarlett Johansson. The 5th movie we will watch is a charming comedy with Redford and Sissy Spacek about a real bank robber, *The Old Man and the Gun*. The last film will be *This Property is Condemned* with Natalie Wood based on a play by Tennessee Williams. We hope to see you in class.

SINGLE SESSION PRESENTATIONS (Note the day and time)

A Day in Florence, Italy

Tuesday, September 29 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Presenter: Dee Christie, Ph.D.

The talk will offer a colorful immersion experience in one of the most interesting cities in the world. Recommendations as what to see, where to eat, and an efficient use of travel time. If you've been there before, the talk will make you want to go again.

Lead in NE Ohio

Wednesday, September 30 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m

Presenter: Mary Lind Crowe, Ph.D., RN

Lead is a heavy metal that poses an ongoing health threat for people living in NE Ohio. In this session, we will explore sources of lead exposure, the physiologic effects of lead accumulation in our bodies, requirements for blood lead level testing in children and public policy initiatives/ recommendations to reduce our exposures to lead.

Biology and the Bible

Tuesday, October 6

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Presenter: Dee Christie, Ph.D.

Biology and the Bible

Are these ideas compatible? The talk will look critically at some examples of stories that seem impossible to believe if one accepts biology. Hopefully this lens will produce a useful tool for understanding the scripture.

Empty Desks: The Crisis in America's Higher Education System

Wednesday, October 7

12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m

Presenter: Louis Raffis

I am a long-time member of the Kent State University Honors College Advisory Board, and so I stay somewhat plugged into issues effecting College Administrators at the strategic planning level. If you are a parent or grandparent of a college-age young person, or are just interested in developments in the field of higher education, this is a lecture for you. American higher education is in crisis. We see it being attacked on multiple fronts. My talk focuses specifically on several major demographic issues that are impacting many schools, even those right here in Northeastern Ohio. Foremost among these are the sharp decline in the number of college-age young people in the U.S., and the decline in the number of young men choosing to attend college. A number of colleges and universities in the U.S. have closed, and more are in financial difficulty. We will take a look at the health of Northeastern Ohio schools, which ones are struggling, which ones remain strong, and the overall outlook for the state's universities. We will also look at what is happening to young men in higher education, how some schools are addressing the special needs of young men, and the work that still needs to be done. If sufficient time remains, we will close the presentation with a look at the impact of Artificial Intelligence in the college classroom - how professors are adapting to the new environment presented by AI, and what winning strategies seem to be prevailing in the classroom.

Some Tips to Plan for Our "Mature" Years

Tuesday, October 13

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Presenter: Dee Christie, Ph.D.

The talk will focus on Advance Directives and other considerations as we prepare for the future.

Interesting and Amusing Pics and Videos from the Internet

Wednesday, October 21

12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Presenter: Carl Sieke, M.S.

Over the years I have collected many pictures and video clips from the internet that sparked my interest or gave me a good laugh. I'd like to share some of them with you. We can all use a little diversion from the concerns of the day. This is all new material.

The Truth about Recycling

Wednesday, October 28

12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Presenters: Fran Jacobs & Carl Sieke

Many of us try to do a good job recycling aluminum and tin cans, glass and plastic bottles, paper, newspaper, and cardboard. But you probably wonder, "Am I doing all this the right way" and "How successful is recycling in general". As usual, the best way to find out is to "Follow the money". We'll take a look at all aspects of this business.