



Baldwin Wallace University
Institute for Learning in Retirement – East
2026 Spring Quarter Schedule

Baldwin Wallace University

Phone: 440-826-2400

Email: ilreast@bw.edu

Website: bw.edu/ilr-east

The Spring Term will begin on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, and run for six weeks, ending on Thursday, May 21, 2026. There will also be single-session talks offered during this period. **ALL CLASSES WILL BE GIVEN AT TEMPLE EMANUEL, LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF BRAINARD AND EMERY ROADS.** Please note that registration is by postal mail only and due by April 9, using the registration form provided. 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 APRIL 14, 2026

Art in Focus

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Time for more Art. This will be our 23rd semester, We'll be visiting with some great artists in the greatest museums. I don't know about you -- but with the way things are going in our country, I need Art more than ever. We'll try to shut out all the cruelty and decompress with things that still can make us proud to be humans. I'll keep a spot open for you....

ZOOM COURSE

Presenter: Michael J. Kaplan, J.D.

A Roundtable Discussion on Aging

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Growing older is a natural part of life. Along the way, we encounter new experiences, challenges, wisdom, fears, and opportunities. This roundtable workshop offers a space to explore the physical, emotional, and social aspects of aging through open conversation rather than formal presentation.

Together, we'll reflect on what it means to age, focusing on health, resilience, adaptation, and ways to live fully at every stage of life. Participants are encouraged to share their thoughts, questions, and personal experiences, and to learn from one another in a supportive, respectful environment.

Presenter: Gary Klein

Vienna 1815-1914

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

In the nineteenth century Vienna, capital of the Austrian Empire was a center of major political and cultural movements. From the Congress of Vienna which shaped the future of European politics for the next half-century through the national and ethnic issues which led to World War I, decisions made in Vienna shaped European history. Equally important were the cultural achievements made in the capital in music, art, science and literature. From the comfortable bourgeois Biedermeier culture of the first half of the century through forward-looking and sometimes shocking innovations of the fin de siècle (end of the century), Vienna set the style for much of Europe. This course will cover the major historical events and cultural movements. Waltzing not required!

Presenter: Laura Blunk, Ph.D.

Cleveland Rocks! (and You Will, Too) Part 2

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

We will cover all of what makes Cleveland the Rock & Roll capital of the world! We will look at the venues (the Richfield Coliseum, the Front Row Theater, La Cave, and more). We will look at the locals who made it big (Michael Stanley, Raspberries, Eric Carmen solo, and more). We will look at the concerts (Moondog Coronation Ball, World Series of Rock, and more). I plan to bring in musicians and other VIPs to enhance the class! All are welcome to enroll! Taking part 1 of this class IS NOT REQUIRED!

Presenter: Gerry Nemeth

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING APRIL 14, 2026 Continued

A Shakespeare Journey—As It Proceeds Through the History Plays

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Presenter: Marge Geiger, Ph.D.

As mentioned in the Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course descriptions, Shakespeare did not create in a vacuum. He was heir to and impacted by realities both prior to and concurrent to his years as a creative master. Social, political, economic, poetic, and theatrical environments influenced Shakespeare as he wrote and produced. This course, a combination of history and art, has already considered some of the bard's comedies and tragedies while looking at what influenced these. Spring's sessions will focus on the history plays as these brought Richard II, Richard III and Henry IV to life on the Elizabethan stage. If you are new to this Shakespeare journey, do not hesitate to come on board for the final third of the trip. You will find things surprisingly seamless and understandable.

WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING APRIL 15, 2026

Behind the Holy Pages

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Presenter: Dee Christie, Ph.D.

Literature, movies, and art are composed through a historical lens. 1984, Birth of a Nation, Brave New World, even South Park: all reflect in some way the time in which they are created. The course will explore the historical context of the Hebrew and Christian scripture and the effect the world of that time had on what became the sacred texts.

Beginner Mah Jongg (4 sessions beginning on April 22, 2 hours each)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Presenter: Julie Moss

Mah Jongg was created in 19th century China and has grown from a male-dominated gambling game into a very popular American sensation. Combining critical thinking, strategy, memory, and luck, Mah Jongg is fun and easy to learn. Meet new friends and start a regular game together. If you have the 2025 Official Standard Hands and Rules card, bring it with you to class. If not, you can purchase one for \$15 when you come to class.

The Religion(s) of America's Founders

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Presenter: Samuel Barnett, Ph.D.

For some time there has been a debate over whether America's "Founders" were Deists or Christians intending to create a Christian country. So let's take a look at what six of the most prominent said about their own religious beliefs in the context of their own lives. It may make a difference about how we think about the claims of some politicians today. Topics include 1. God and the Enlightenment, 2. Franklin's Supposed Deism, 3. Washington's Comfortable Conformity, 4. Puritanism, Unitarianism, and John Adams, 5. Jefferson's Ethical Christianity, 6. Was Hamilton Jewish and 7. Madison's Rejection of "Toleration"

The Qur'an: Text and Context

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Presenter: Zeki Saritoprak, Ph.D.

This course serves as an introduction to the Qur'an, the Holy book of Islam. For Muslims, the Qur'an is the word of God verbatim. Students will be introduced to the text of the Qur'an, as well as commentaries on the Qur'an, providing a window into both the scripture itself and Muslim interpretations, past and present. We will approach the Qur'an as a living document, as a text that is continually re-visited and re-interpreted by Muslims, and used in various contexts. This course will explore theological and legal dimensions of the Qur'an, including the four major themes of the: Qur'an God and God's beautiful names, prophethood, justice, and the afterlife.

Astronomy and Cosmology in the Last Hundred Years

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Presenter: Carl Sieke, M.S.

In this fourth installment of modern physics, we'll discuss our present picture of how the universe started and evolved into its present form. This includes the big bang, how stars, planets, and galaxies formed, how space itself is expanding, black holes, exo-planets, dark matter, and dark energy. We'll also talk about why the universe seems to be fine-tuned for life, and the final demise of planet earth and the universe itself.

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING APRIL 16, 2026

Religion in the Anthropocene

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Presenter: Hugh Burtner, Ph.D.

In what scholars increasingly call the Anthropocene era, in which humans are shaping the planet in unprecedented ways, we focus in this course what roll religions are now playing and may play in the future. To address these new questions, we will use the recent work of three scholars, Timothy Beal, Daniel Maguire, and Roberto M. Unger. Join me for discussions of these questions.

British Queen Consorts: The Women Behind the Kings

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Presenter: Teresa Marano, Ph.D.

The title, “Queen Consort,” has received attention since Camilla Parker-Bowles was crowned on 6 May 2023 along with her husband, King Charles III. This course will examine the role of the queen consort in assisting the king to ensure the survival of the monarchy. Several British queen consorts and their kings will be discussed, including Queen Consorts Charlotte, wife of King George III (longest-reigning queen consort); Mary, wife of King George V; Elizabeth, wife of King George VI and mother of Queen Elizabeth II; and Camilla, wife of King Charles III.

Pearl Harbor: Causes, the Battle, the Aftermath

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Presenter: Steve Schecter, M.A.

On December 7, 1941, the United States suffered one of the worst defeats in its history when Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. In less than two hours, American ships and aircraft were destroyed, and more than 2,000 lives were lost. Why was the United States so unprepared for such an attack? Why did Japan believe it was necessary to strike the U.S. Pacific Fleet? The decision-making of both nations was deeply flawed and influenced by cultural stereotypes, arrogance, and misjudgments of one another. The class will examine the failures of both countries that led to the attack, experiences of some who lived through the battle and some who did not, and the immediate consequences that followed. Did the US learn from this experience?

Robert Redford: Actor and Director

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Presenter: William Rafalski

This course will show 6 movies that Robert Redford performed in or directed. By popular demand, the first movie is “Three Days of the Condor” with Faye Dunaway. The 2nd film shown will be his breakout film, “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid”. The 3rd film shown will be the baseball drama, “The Natural” with Glenn Close. The 4th film shown will be “The Great Gatsby” with Mia Farrow. The 5th movie shown will be the romantic melodrama with Barbara Streisand, “The Way We Were”. The last film shown will be the award-winning drama directed by Redford, “Ordinary People” with Tim Hutton. I hope to see you at the movies.

SINGLE SESSION PRESENTATIONS TUESDAYS at 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

By learning new things and engaging in mentally stimulating activities, seniors may be able to build a “cognitive reserve” that may delay the onset of age-related cognitive decline symptoms. Research shows that challenging your brain with new skills, hobbies, and social activities can build new connections in the brain, making it more resilient to the effects of aging. In each of these “one-and-done” classes, you’ll challenge yourself by learning 4 new skills while having loads of fun. Eight diverse activities are planned. Take 1 or 2 classes or take both. Supplies provided.

CLASS 1 – Get Your Ducks in a Row

April 14

Presenter: Terri Betts, B.F.A., B.S.Ed

Personalized Time Management (tailored to you), Self-Relaxation That Works (for everyone).
Learn Something New Every Day (in 10 minutes), Fill-in-the-Blank Book (about your life)

CLASS 2 – Look! I Made It Myself

April 28

Presenter: Terri Betts, B.F.A., B.S.Ed

No-Sew Fabric Coasters (that match your décor), Sophisticated Napkin Folding (to impress)
Spinning Heart Card (that everyone will like), Journal (make and finish in class)

History Goes to the Movies

April 21

Presenter: James Krukones, Ph.D.

Ever since the birth of cinema, movies have had a close relationship with history. Some movies try to recreate specific historical events and personalities. But even when the subject matter has nothing to do with the past, movies cannot help but reflect the era from which they come. In this way, they serve as a time capsule. Join me for a look at the history to be found in movies as well as the pitfalls and possibilities that filmmakers encounter in trying to put the past on the screen.

Cupid Doesn’t Send Crypto: Protecting Yourself from Romance Scams

April 21

Presenter: Brian McDonough, JD

Last year, over \$4.8 billion was lost due to elder fraud. Fraudsters target millions of older adults through phone calls, emails, social media, and even in-person tactics to steal money and personal information. This interactive presentation is designed specifically for older adults to recognize, prevent, and respond to romance scams. Participants will learn how to spot red flags, protect their finances, safeguard personal information, and know where to turn for help if victimized. The course incorporates real-life examples, role-playing, and easy-to-follow strategies to build confidence in recognizing and handling romance scams. By the end of the presentation, participants will recognize romance scams targeting older adults, learn practical ways to protect personal and financial information, understand the resources available for reporting romance scams, and build confidence in saying “no” and disengaging from romance scammers.

Developing Issues in the World of Higher Education

May 19

Presenter: Louis Raffis, KSU Honors College Advisory Board Member

We will discuss several major demographic issues that are confronting College Administrators, and the very health and well-being of America's system of higher education. Foremost among these are the sharp decline in the number of college-age young people in the U.S. and in the number of young men choosing to attend college. We will explore what effects we have already seen and also what is still to come. We'll close with a review of the impact of Artificial Intelligence on higher education.