



Spring 2026 Catalog

UT OLLI ONLINE

Wednesday – Friday

April 1, 2026 – May 8, 2026

Online Registration Begins:
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Online Classes Begin:
Wednesday, April 1, 2026

olli.utexas.edu

OVERVIEW

Welcome to UT OLLI

The on-campus curriculum will be provided by 4 different programs on their respective day throughout the week.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SAGE	DISCOVER	NOVA	(ONLINE)	FORUM

In addition to on-campus exclusive seminars and lectures for each program, online classes are offered on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays this 2025-2026 program year. UT OLLI members can attend all online classes remotely. Links to online classes will be available on the [UT OLLI website](#) and webinar recordings can be found [HERE](#).

***Please Note** - The views and opinions expressed are those of the speaker(s) and do not reflect the views of the University of Texas Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).

Online Schedule Per Week

(Click on the titles below to navigate the document)

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11:00 AM – 12:10 PM The Gilded Age in Austin	11:00 AM – 12:10 PM The Magic Behind Film Scores - Part 2 1:00 PM – 2:10 PM Dante's Divine Comedy: Educating the Eye	1:00 PM – 2:10 PM Lecture Series

**UT OLLI is conducted in Central Time*

UT OLLI WIDE Spring 2026 – Wednesday Seminar

11:00 AM - 12:10 PM (Hybrid)

[The Gilded Age in Austin](#)

The "Gilded Age" of free-range capitalism impacted the city of Austin differently than the rest of Texas and differently from the rest of the United States. Centering on the late 1800s, this seminar will examine Austin's business and social life - including law and order, the economy, education and recreation.



James L. Haley is the author of 25 books. The most notable are his long-standing biography, Sam Houston, and his 600-page history of Texas, Passionate Nation. He has won the WWA Spur Award twice, and the Texas Historical Commission Book Award twice.

<u>04/01/2026</u>	Introduction Austin as a product of geography and history, population and ethnic make-up with special look at Germans and Freedmen will be examined.
<u>04/08/2026</u>	Politics and Law Topics include: succession of political hot buttons, a gunslinger for city marshal and the shocking Supreme Court decisions.
<u>04/15/2026</u>	Austin "Bidness." Cost of living and goods and services available will be discussed as seen through a re-creation of the central business district and entrepreneurship including Radam's Miracle Microbe Cure.
<u>04/22/2026</u>	Austin Starts to Get Weird Discussion about Moon Towers, Hyde Park Suburb, religious diversity and uppity but extraordinary women - including Susanna Dickinson, Elisabet Ney and Theodora Hemphill will take place.
<u>04/29/2026</u>	Lost Architecture This talk centers around the careers of Oscar and F.E. Ruffini, Jasper Preston, Jacob Larmour and Nicholas Clayton. Specific buildings that survived will be examined including that magnificent Capitol.
<u>05/06/2026</u>	Food, Fun, and Debriefing Austins' favorite recipes, concerts and Singverein as well as select newspaper items and picnicking at the Lunatic Asylum will be explored.

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UT OLLI WIDE Spring 2026 – Thursday Seminars

11:00 AM - 12:10 PM

[The Magic Behind Film Scores - Part 2](#)

In this companion six-week seminar, the speaker broadens the lens to explore how both instrumental scores and songs with lyrics shape the film experience. From franchise themes to pop-driven storytelling, you'll hear how music does more than underscore - it defines eras, characters and cultural moments.



Mike Agron is a music aficionado who was raised in LA's entertainment scene. He is a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur turned storyteller who crafts dynamic seminars on music and film. He's led hundreds of engaging sessions for the Sacramento Renaissance Society, numerous OLLI programs nationwide, Osher Online, Encore Learning and other live programs. This spring, he returns for his ninth seminar series with UT OLLI.

03/31/2026	The Music of James Bond: Shaken, Not Stirred A tour of the iconic songs across this 60+ year franchise, revealing how Bond themes became a defining element of the cinematic experience.
04/07/2026	Westerns and Spaghetti Western A musical journey through the Western's mythic emotional landscape—from classic frontier epics and playful twists to the distinctive sound of Spaghetti Westerns.
04/14/2026	Musicals That Tell a Universal Story Three landmark films from the late 1950s—early 1960s exploring exile, identity, and empathy through artists who understood what it meant to live as “the other” in America.
04/21/2026	Celebrating the Gift of Global Film Composers A journey through the world of international film composers and memorable scores from Greece, France, Spain, Italy, South Korea, and India.
04/28/2026	Rock 'n' Roll Hits the Screen The dawn of rock in film as Hollywood tunes in to the teenage revolution, featuring five films from 1955–1963.
05/05/2026	Beatlemania: From Beach Blankets to Hard Days The rock wave continues with the mid-1960s Beach Party films, followed by a dive into three Beatles classics packed with iconic songs.

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UT OLLI WIDE Spring 2026 – Thursday Seminars

1:00 PM - 2:10 PM

[Dante's Divine Comedy: Educating the Eye](#)

Even though it was written in the 1300s, Dante's Divine Comedy remains genuinely alive and well as a potent story that helps us live even more authentically "examined lives" within an attitude of what poet and Dante translator John Ciardi calls "serious joy." This seminar will explore C.S. Lewis's *A Grief Observed* as a pre-epic poem stretching exercise in preparation for joining Dante's pilgrimage. The seminar will then introduce *Inferno*, *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*.



Daniel Christian has taught Dante for nearly forty years. He has published essays in scholarly journals including *Lingua Romana* (BYU) and *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* (Wichita State University) and he created and edited *Educating the Eye*, a first-of-its-kind anthology of Dante-inspired essays by high school students. His teaching has been recognized with multiple awards from Gilman School and the Dante Society of America, including the Robert M. Durling Prize (2017).

04/02/2026	Dante's Divine Comedy: A Grief Observed This session explores C.S. Lewis's relationship with Helen Joy Davidma. We will examine Lewis's journey from misery to felicity as a reflective exercise.
04/09/2026	Dante's Divine Comedy: Key Interactions within The Inferno This class will define damnation within INFERNO as a twisted and ruinous view of love "in this life" right now. Key scenes from the text will be assigned and explored.
04/16/2026	Dante's Divine Comedy: Key Moments from the Inferno Dante's imagined Hell gets colder, not warmer, as the funnel comes to a point. Once again, important moments from INFERNO focusing on how ice perfectly conveys the pain of treachery will be studied.
04/23/2026	Dante's Divine Comedy: Moving Situations from Purgatorio Dante translator, Dorothy L. Sayers, teaches us that readers are drawn to PURGATORIO by the "cords of love." We will focus on how Mt. Purgatory's healing curriculum "works" and how it shows Sayers's insight is on the mark.
04/30/2026	Dante's Divine Comedy: Dramatic Episodes from Purgatorio Two striking encounters on Mt. Purgatory will be tended to with all our might. We will first direct our attention to the intense ripple effects of a liberating earthquake, and, most consequentially, to Virgil's final words for Dante, his "son."
05/07/2026	Dante's Divine Comedy: Heavenly Episodes from Paradiso Dante scholar, Ariel Saiber, says that "Dante doesn't make hard things easy; he makes challenging things marvelous." This final day with Dante, we will read, ponder, and MARVEL our way through passages from PARADISO.

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UT OLLI WIDE Spring 2026 – Friday Lecture Series

01:00 PM - 02:10 PM

04/03/2026 The Wonderful World of Purple Martin Birds

Suzanne Harm shares background information on the purple martin such as the birds' lifecycle, migration patterns and the history of the Austin and Round Rock area roosts. Time permitting, she may briefly cover attracting and managing colonies and citizen science.



04/10/2026 Everything You Need to Know About Adult Protective Services

Erica Mendoza discusses how Adult Protective Services (APS) protects vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This lecture covers the signs of mistreatment, how to report suspected cases and the investigative process used to ensure the safety and well-being of older adults and people with disabilities.



04/17/2026 Is America's Jury System Failing?

It's easy to assume that juries remain at the heart of decision-making in the American criminal justice system. In reality, the role of the jury has steadily diminished, despite the importance the nation's founders placed on this uniquely democratic institution. In this course, Dr. Mary Rose examines how and why the jury system has withered, explores the forces driving its decline and considers the future challenges.



04/24/2026 Vitality at Any Age: Simple Yoga Practices for Healthy Living

Charles MacInerney presents this interactive workshop which introduces practical strategies for physical, mental and emotional well-being. Through gentle movement, breathwork and meditation, participants learn accessible tools to reduce stress and improve balance. Designed for all experience levels, the session focuses on realistic, intentional habits to enhance vitality and promote healthy aging.



05/01/2026 My Life as an Explorer – Age 50 and Beyond

This lecture is led by National Geographic explorer, Hansen West, who completed the first full descent of the Amazon River from its most distant source to the sea. Drawing on his pioneering first kayak navigations of the Amazon, the Volga River and the Northwest Passage, the speaker will share the mindset necessary to undertake ambitious endeavors at any stage of life.



05/08/2026 21st Century Texas: Climate, Water, Science, and Society

Professor Jay Banner examines how climate and geopolitical forces converge in Texas which places increasing strain on natural resources and public health. Using climate science and historical data, he will explore projections for rising greenhouse gases, the growing risks of extreme heat and drought and the potential impacts on the state's economy, well-being and social equity.



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