

The Institute for Learning in Retirement

Summer Bulletin 2020



Oak Hammock
at the University of Florida®

ROAD SCHOLAR®
Institute Network

The Institute for Learning in Retirement is dedicated to the enjoyment and continued learning of its members. The courses in this Bulletin are the work of volunteer members who organize and facilitate the courses, discussion groups, special events, and field trips, as well as social activities involving the ILR. The presenters are also volunteers, coming from the University of Florida, Santa Fe College, and the Gainesville community.

Welcome Summer!

As you know, ILR will be presenting all Summer Semester classes via Zoom teleconferencing, which members may access via email. Members will not need to have a Zoom account to access these classes.

Two days before each class, **members who have registered** will receive an email invitation to join the class. When you open the email, take note of the highlighted Zoom meeting address link in the body of the email message. This is what you will click on to join your class. Save this email, and reopen it on the day of your class, about ten minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. Then click on the Zoom link, and you will be taken directly to Zoom. From there, it is just a few simple clicks to join the class.

While many of you know how easy it is to use Zoom, others might want to participate in a short training session, to get up to speed. We will offer training sessions on June 30 and July 2 – and will be sending info on how to sign up via email NewsFlash the week before.

PLEASE NOTE THIS SPECIAL ADVISORY:

Zoom has been chosen for its reliability and ease of use. However, like all internet services, it can be subject to occasional quality issues. If your internet or WIFI service is unstable, or if your computer is older, the video and audio quality may not be as high as you wish. Classes may sometimes stop and then restart automatically, or the dialog might be out of sync. If you experience such issues, please do not ask the host to try to resolve them during class. Others will quite likely not have a similar problem. Instead, wait until after the class, and then contact the host to explain your issue.



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Visit our [website at www.ilr352.org](http://www.ilr352.org) or our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ILR352>

Call Julie Ann at 352-548-1009 or email jariet@oakhammock.org for more information.

SUMMER 2020 COURSES

Eighteenth-Century America **Mondays** **10:00am** **ZOOM Course**

Presenter: Richard MacMaster, retired Professor of History and seasoned facilitator of ILR courses, will introduce a video in each class and follow each one with a question and answer session concerning the surprising lives of his subjects.



Monday July 6 **Yellow Fever 1793**

The yellow fever epidemic of 1793 decimated the population of Philadelphia and brought two African American leaders to center stage organizing efforts to bring health care to the stricken. Dr. Benjamin Rush and other physicians argued on the cause and treatment of an unfamiliar disease as Congress and the President fled the city.

Monday July 13 **In Penn's Shadow**

We remember William Penn as the founder of the proprietary colony of Pennsylvania, but he was a profound thinker on government and liberty. He was pushed by colonists to enlarge his understanding of the rights of citizens to a voice in law making. Penn's vision of liberty of conscience left a legacy of religious freedom for future generations

Monday July 20 **Peopling the Colonies: Immigrants, Servants and Slaves**

As unclaimed land became scarce in the earlier settled regions, an internal migration pushed some settlers to northern New England and Nova Scotia and others southward to the Valley of Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. They were joined by an ever increasing number of immigrants from the British Isles and German-speaking lands. Others came unwillingly as convicts transported to the Colonies and as slaves brought from Africa. How did this mixed multitude people America and shape its culture?

Monday July 27 **Ben Franklin, American**

Arriving in Philadelphia as a penniless runaway, Franklin reinvented himself as the indispensable political leader and the architect of public-spirited institutions through his savvy use of the press and his organizational skills. By 1765 Franklin was at the top of his game, preparing to oust the Penn family from Pennsylvania, when he overreached.

Monday August 3 **George Mason and the Bill of Rights**

George Mason of Gunston Hall wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, a document that shaped both Jefferson's Declaration of Independence later that year and Madison's Bill of Rights in 1791. A tobacco planter who rarely left his home on the Potomac, Mason was a surprisingly radical thinker. He refused to sign the Constitution, after debating it clause by clause in the 1787 Philadelphia Convention because it was too restrictive and contained no Declaration of Rights.

Monday August 10 **George Washington's Spies**

Spies played an important part in winning the American Revolution, gleaned news of British troop movements and misleading British commanders with false information. None were more successful than Washington's agents on Long Island and in New York City - Samuel Culper Sr. and Jr.

German **Tuesdays** **ZOOM Course** **Instructor:** **Barbara Johnston**



Beginning German: 11:00am

This is a beginning course in German. Stories and vocabulary are used to quickly start using the language. All interested in learning the German language are invited to attend.

Intermediate German: 1:30pm

Students should have a basic knowledge of German. The emphasis is on reading to improve vocabulary and conversation.

SUMMER 2020 COURSES

Who Was Number Two? ZOOM Class Tuesdays 10:00am
Facilitator: Barbara Herbstman

Over the course of our history, fourteen men who were Vice-Presidents became President. Some were elected President after having served as Vice-President, but some were propelled into office due to the death or resignation of the President. Who were these men and how did their service as Vice-President alter the course of our nation's history? Who was Number Two?

July 14 Martin Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson
Presenter: Richard MacMaster

Martin Van Buren was the only Vice-President for whom English was a second language. He delivered New York for Andrew Jackson in 1828 and was rewarded with a cabinet post. A Jackson loyalist in a stormy administration, he was the General's running mate in 1832 and his chosen successor in 1836.

Richard M. Johnson was Martin Van Buren's Vice-President and the only candidate rejected by the Electoral College. Andrew Jackson urged Martin Van Buren to select James K. Polk as his Vice-President but Johnson prevailed.

July 21 Harry Truman
Presenter: Jerry Kirkpatrick

Most people remember Harry Truman as the man who ordered the dropping of the atomic bomb (twice), fired General Douglas MacArthur, and said, "The buck stops here," but most don't remember him as the Vice-President, which he was for a whole 86 days! During this time, he met with the President only eight times, briefly at Cabinet meetings, where little of substance was discussed. After being notified of Roosevelt's death and hastily sworn in as President, Truman felt terribly ill-prepared and decided to change the Vice-Presidency to ensure that his successors would never suffer the same fate.

July 28 John C. Calhoun and Henry Wallace
Presenter: Paul Parker

John C. Calhoun was Vice-President under Andrew Jackson, whom he notoriously detested. His politics and Southern elitist aristocratic background could not have been more different than Jackson's rude, backwoods origins as well as his military career. Their political clashes were titanic and their personal relationships were non-existent.

Henry Wallace was Vice-President under Franklin Roosevelt from 1940 to 1944. He was a man of many diverse traits, an innovative scientific farmer, a journalist, a very wealthy businessman, an exemplary Secretary of Agriculture under Roosevelt during the Great Depression, a putative admirer of and an apologist for the Soviet Union in the 1930s and 40s.

August 4 Lyndon Johnson
Presenter: Barbara Oberlander

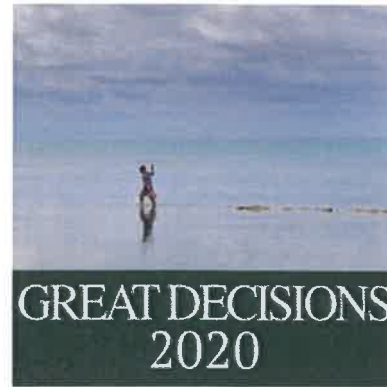
When Lyndon Baines Johnson agreed to accept the Vice-Presidential nomination on the 1960 Democratic ticket, many were shocked. Johnson had given up his powerful position as Senate majority leader to run with John F. Kennedy, whom he called "a boy," and considered an inexperienced upstart. Johnson's attempts to transform the office of Vice-President into a position of real power were met with frustration.



SUMMER 2020 COURSES

Great Decisions **Tuesdays** **1:30pm**
July 7-August 18 **ZOOM Class**
Facilitator: Rick Gold
Class sizes are limited to 20 participants

Great Decisions **Wednesdays** **10:00am**
July 8–August 19 **ZOOM Class**
Facilitator: Rick Gold
Class sizes are limited to 20 participants



This Zoom-based class strives to stimulate your intellect and strengthen your grasp of world events and issues. Group discussions highlight selected thought-provoking foreign policy challenges we face in the current geopolitical environment. A video of experts discussing various foreign policy options is shown at each class, while the facilitator supplements, updates and guides the discussion. The small class sizes ensure an opportunity for active participation by all attendees. All participants are expected to read the relevant article in the Great Decisions briefing book prior to each session. Please order a physical or electronic copy of the magazine, produced by the Foreign Policy Association, prior to the start of class. Physical copies are available at www.fpa.org. Electronic copies can be purchased through Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Great-Decisions-Foreign-Policy-Association-ebook/dp/B083CY65LR>

The class will address the following subjects: India and Pakistan (week of July 6); Red Sea region (week of July 13); Human trafficking (week of July 20); Northern Triangle of Central America (week of July 27); China in Latin America (week of August 3); The Philippines (week of August 10); and Artificial intelligence and data (week of August 17).

Opera

To all our faithful opera lovers:

Unfortunately, there will be no Sidney Ives Class on Understanding and Enjoying Opera this term.

We made several attempts to adapt the class to the Zoom format, but could not retain quality sound or visuals.

However, there are several sites on the internet that have free high quality operas that are easily accessible.

You will find the links to them under News and Events on our ILR website www.ilr352.org.

We hope to see you all again, as soon as possible.

Ray Jones, Forrest Crawford, David Hickey and Coni Gesualdi



Road Scholar Presents: VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

Road Scholar has created a Virtual Library collection of online lecture presentations which deal with a wide variety of topics. These include "Locations" (Wales, Normandy, Morocco, Newfoundland, etc...). "Influential People" (Churchill, Lincoln, Picasso, Truman, etc.) and other singular eclectic subjects.

Instructors are from the international faculty of the Road Scholar organization accessed from the comfort of your home using the link provided.

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<https://www.road scholar.org/virtualllearning/>

SUMMER 2020 COURSES

Covid-19 and Johns Hopkins

Thursdays 1:30pm ZOOM Course

Presenter: Ken Berns, former member of the Advisory Committee of the CDC Director, and Professor Emeritus at UF in the Dept. of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology.

The course will consist of three videos on the Covid-19 pandemic produced by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the first established in the US. DA Henderson served for many years as the dean after he successfully led the global effort to rid the world of smallpox. Upon stepping down, he founded the Center for Public Health Security, which has concentrated its efforts on the study of pandemics. Not only did the Center outline preparation for a pandemic, it also developed the capability for the gathering and analysis of data concerning a pandemic.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the analytic capacity of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was not up to the task. Hence the US government has relied on the analyses of the Hopkins Center to provide "official" data. These are the data seen on CNN and MSNBC in the lower right-hand corner (number of cases and number of deaths worldwide and in the US).

Faculty from the Hopkins Center have appeared on numerous television programs to provide commentary.

July 9 Covid-19 before the U.S. onset

July 16 Index of U.S. preparedness in mid-March

July 23 Current (May 21) state of the pandemic in the U.S.



A Gentle Introduction to Cosmology

Thursdays 1:30pm ZOOM Course

Presenter: Dr. John Axe. A physicist, Dr. Axe was the Deputy Director of the world-famous Brookhaven National Laboratory.

For thousands of years civilizations have invented fanciful early histories of our Earth and Heavens. Future generations will look back on the 20th century, the time when scientists first comprehended the size of the universe and took giant steps toward understanding its past history and probable future. This course is a three-part guided tour of what we have learned and how we learned it.

July 30 The universe is huge and is still growing. We review how astronomers developed the yardsticks that tell us the distance to the Sun, to other nearest stars, and eventually to other galaxies. Measurements also show that distant galaxies are receding from us, contradicting Einstein's model of a timeless static universe. Another model predicts a hot dense early universe. But how could we ever decide?

August 6 The early universe began very hot and is still cooling.

Light from distant galaxies was emitted when the universe was younger, so astronomers by necessity look back in time. Bell Laboratory scientist's discovery of annoying microwave noise led to further unmistakable evidence of the postulated hot "big bang" early universe. The future evolution of the universe was decided by the time it was three minutes old, and it was simpler to understand then than it would ever be again.

August 13 The universe is flat and nearly empty. But why (and what does this even mean?)

We now have a rather simple model of the universe that explains the known features of the universe and its history and predicts its future. But the consistency of this so-called "Standard Model" depends upon postulating two major constituents of the present-day universe-dark matter (that has never been observed) and dark energy (that not even theorists have understood). A lot has been learned, but there is more work to be done.

Roundtable Discussion in the Algonquin Genre

Course: Rick Gold, Eli Glazer

Thursdays 10:00am ZOOM
Class limit: 25

The Algonquin Round Table was a group of New York City writers, critics, actors, and wits. Gathering initially as part of a practical joke, members of "The Vicious Circle", as they dubbed themselves, met for lunch each day at the Algonquin Hotel from 1919 until roughly 1929. At these luncheons they engaged in wisecracks, wordplay, and witticisms that, through the newspaper columns of Round Table members, were disseminated across the country.

ILR's Zoom-based Round Table is a forum for discussion of topics of mutual interest, particularly of current events. Participants bring their interests, opinions and expertise to the table and engage in spirited, though respectful, debate. Topics are determined jointly by participants.



**Special Summer ILR class offerings.
Join us through ZOOM and exclusive
YouTube offerings.**

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ILR352>

Registration Information:

After reviewing this Bulletin and selecting the courses you wish to join, please go back to the body of the email which gave you the Bulletin, as an attachment. There you will find a REGISTRATION FORM – right in the email itself. Click on "Reply" to this email. Then, simply scroll down in the original email, and click in the boxes next to your chosen courses. Then go back to the top of the email. Click on "Send." This will send your course choices back to us. You will be placed on Zoom email invitation lists for each of your courses.



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