



# OPEN UNIVERSITY

The Shepherd's Center of Richmond

FOUNDED IN 1984

Winter Schedule

Jan 12 - Mar 6, 2026

## ONE TUITION PAYMENT

gives you access to all courses and lunch talks in this schedule.

**Registration for individual courses is not necessary unless noted in course description.**

**Pay tuition, choose** what you want to attend, **show up**, and **enjoy!**

## Mondays

At St. Luke Lutheran Church  
7757 Chippenham Parkway

### Four Films from the Early Fifties

*8-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

Four early-1950's films - *Harvey*, *The African Queen*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *The Quiet Man* - will be revisited. Many of us know them well, perhaps from their original theater runs. We'll examine each to see whether nostalgia has shaped our judgment or if they still genuinely engage audiences.

*Teacher: Walter Schoen, associate professor of theatre emeritus, University of Richmond*

M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
9:30 - 10:30

### French I for Seniors, Continuing

*8-week course: In person only.*

This beginner course offers a friendly, engaging space to learn basic French. Build essential vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills for greetings, introductions, and simple daily situations. Enjoy speaking, listening, reading, and writing practice with cultural insights and multimedia resources. Textbook, *French the Easy Way*, Christopher Kendris, ISBN# 978081209505 0.

**Limited to 12 students. Students must reserve a seat in the course by calling The Shepherd's Center office at 804-355-7282.**

*Teacher: Barrett Brown, Spanish and French teacher, Maggie Walker Governors School*  
M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
9:30 - 10:30

### Watercolor Painting

*8-week course: In person only.*

Watercolors provide a means to slow down and see one's environment. This course will establish new skills or hone existing skills. Students will work from images and prompts provided by the teacher. No experience is required. Students may bring their own supplies or purchase a prepared kit at Plaza Art, 917 W. Grace St, Richmond.

**Limited to 12 students. Students must reserve a seat in the course by calling The Shepherd's Center office at 804-355-7282.**

*Teacher: Camden Whitehead, architect; professor emeritus, VCUarts, Department of Interior Design, VCU*

M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
9:30 - 10:30

### Memoir Writing

*8-week course: In person only.*

Join us to write about your life and family history and learn some techniques to help you tell those stories better.

*Teacher: Meriah Crawford, professor, Focused Inquiry, Virginia Commonwealth University*

M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
9:30 - 10:30

### George Eliot's *Middlemarch*

*8-week course: In person only.*

Reading and discussing the greatest English novel. Read Book 1 (and only this) prior to first meeting. For syllabus and details write to [rhilliar@richmond.edu](mailto:rhilliar@richmond.edu).

*Teacher: Ray Hilliard, retired literature professor and chair of the English department, University of Richmond*

M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
9:30 - 10:30

### Spanish I for Senior Adults, Continuing

*8-week course: In person only.*

Bienvenidos a Español I. This beginner course for senior adults offers a supportive space to learn basic Spanish. You'll practice introductions, greetings, simple questions, and everyday

## **Mondays, continued**

situations, along with reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Whether you're traveling, interested in Hispanic culture, or keeping an active mind, this class is for you. Textbook, *Spanish the Easy Way, 4th Edition*. Silverstein, Pomerantz and Allen. ISBN 0764119745. **Limited to 12 students.**

**Students must reserve a seat in the course by calling The Shepherd's Center office at 804-355-7282.**

*Teacher: Barrett Brown, teacher of Spanish and French, Maggie Walker Governors School*

M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
11:00 - 12:00

### **Intermediate Spanish (Continuing)**

*8-week course: In person only.*

A continuing class that emphasizes basic grammar and vocabulary with a focus on using them in every day conversation. Students are encouraged to order a used copy of *Spanish for Mastery 2: Entre nosotros* by Valette & Valette ISBN-13: 9780669313413, and, *Practice Makes Perfect: Complete Spanish Grammar*, 4th ed. by Gilda Nissenbaum, PhD (can be ordered from Amazon).

*Teacher: Tim Martin, retired school counselor, former Spanish and French teacher*

M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
11:00 - 12:00

### **How to Listen to Music**

*8-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

A non-traditional music appreciation course for those seeking to get the most out of performances in varying genres, historical styles, and world cultures by understanding aspects of harmony, melody, form, texture, timbre, and rhythm.

*Teacher: Gene Anderson, professor emeritus, music, University of Richmond*

M • Jan 12 - Mar 2  
11:00 - 12:00

### **The Rule of Law: To What Extent, If Any, Is It Possible**

*1-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

President Trump has frequently been accused of violating the rule of law, but whether that criticism is warranted depends on the kind of law supposedly being violated, the degree to which the law is subject to differing interpretations, the method of interpreting the law that should be used, and who should do the interpreting. Conclusion:

the rule of law is difficult to attain.

*Teacher: Ellis West, professor emeritus, political science, University of Richmond*

M • Jan 12  
11:00 - 12:00

### **Politics and Sports in America**

*1-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

Morris and Palazzolo speak about the relationship between sports and politics from a variety of vantage points.

*Teachers: Thomas Morris, professor emeritus, political science; and Dan Palazzolo, professor, political science*

M • Jan 19  
11:00 - 12:00

### **How Government Really Works: An Insider's View of the Working of Government**

*6-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

Modules will include: The Founding Fathers Intended Design of Government; The Roles of the Legislative Branch, the Role of Lobbyists, and Barriers to Lawmaking; The Role of the Bureaucracy (and a brief history); The Role of the Executive and How it Has Become so Powerful; The Future of Governing in an Era of Partisanship.

*Teacher: Bill Leighty, former professor of Public Administration, VCU; former chief of staff to two VA governors*

M • Jan 26 - Mar 2  
11:00 - 12:00

## **Monday Lunch Speakers**

At St. Luke Lutheran Church

7757 Chippenham Parkway

Included with Open University tuition.

Free with \$25 Shepherd's Center membership.

Held in person and via Zoom.

### **MLK: Beyond the Dream**

*Michael Paul Williams, Op-Ed columnist, Richmond Times-Dispatch; awarded the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2021*

M • Jan 12  
12:30 - 1:30

*(Lunch Speakers continued next page)*

## Monday Lunch Speakers, continued

### **A Look at Virginia Politics - and Policy - Following the Election of the State's First Female Governor**

*Jeff Schapiro, retired journalist, Richmond Times-  
Dispatch*

M • Jan 19  
12:30 - 1:30

### **George Wythe: An Unsung Founding Father**

*Jeff Clark, professor of psychology (retired), Virginia  
Union University*

M • Jan 26  
12:30 - 1:30

### **Urban Wildlife of Richmond and the James River**

*Bill Draper, nature photographer*

M • Feb 2  
12:30 - 1:30

### **Court Advocacy: Every Child Deserves A Voice**

*Kristin Blalock, Director of Partnerships, Henrico  
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)*

M • Feb 9  
12:30 - 1:30

### **The Magic and Mystery of the Golden Mean**

*Mimi Sadler, historical architect, and Camden  
Whitehead, architect, professor emeritus, VCU  
School of the Arts*

M • Feb 16  
12:30 - 1:30

### **To Show Its True Worth: Maggie L. Walker and the Preservation of Frederick Douglass' Home**

*Ben Anderson, MA, PhD, American Studies, William  
and Mary; park ranger, Maggie Walker National  
Historic Site*

M • Feb 23  
12:30 - 1:30

### **If Trees Could Talk: The History, Status, and Future of Virginia's Forests**

*Christopher Gough, BS in Biology, James Madison;  
MS, PhD in Forestry, VA Tech*

M • Mar 2  
12:30 - 1:30

## Tuesdays

At The Shepherd's Center of Richmond  
5101 Monument Ave., Suite 105

### **Beginning German**

*8-week course: In person only.*

In this session, instead of treating pronunciation and grammar as separate units, we will study real German texts and videos. Students will read and listen to conversations, descriptive texts, poems, songs, aphorisms, and music lyrics, with readily accessible English translations. These components will serve as starting points for pronunciation practice and vocabulary building, and for explanation of the grammatical structures they illustrate.

Emphasis will be on language immersion and conversational practice.

*Teacher: Gary Smith, PhD, German language and  
literature; 35-year teaching career at William and  
Mary*

Tu • Jan 13 - Mar 3  
11:00 - 12:00

### **"Was ist los?" Intermediate German**

*8-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

Free conversation about "Gott und die Welt" (anything). Reading and translating skills with Andre Klein's *Plötzlich in Palermo* (Amazon). Some grammar.

*Teacher: Sabine Horn, German native; MA,  
Japanese and Russian, University of Marburg,  
Germany*

Tu • Jan 13 - Mar 3  
1:30 - 2:30

### **"Genki?" Japanese for Beginners II**

*8-week course: In person only.*

Listening and speaking skill with *Pimsleur 1* audio CD. Free conversation with old and new vocabulary. Systematic approach to NIHONGO with *Japanese for Busy People I*, Romanized version (Amazon). Some grammar.

*Teacher: Sabine Horn, German native; MA,  
Japanese and Russian, University of Marburg,  
Germany*

Tu • Jan 13 - Mar 3  
3:00 - 4:00

## Thursdays

At Lakeside United Methodist Church  
2333 Hilliard Road

### ***Our Mutual Friend, Charles Dickens, 1864-1865***

*8-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

Published serially between May 1864 and November 1865, *Our Mutual Friend* was Charles Dickens' last complete novel, and one of epic proportions. It includes characters from the heights of "society" to the depths of poverty and runs the gamut of emotions from self-sacrificing love to malicious greed. It is a story of London, of the river that runs through it, and of the social webs that connect everyone in it. Students should read through Book I, chapter 9 before the first class. Recommended: the Penguin edition.

*Teacher: Maria Scott, PhD, English language and Literature; professor emeritus, Randolph-Macon College*

Th • Jan 15 - Mar 5  
9:30 - 10:30

### **Money and the Fed**

*8-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

History and theory behind the most powerful economic institution. What is money and how is it created and regulated? What crisis led to the Fed's creation in 1913? How has the Fed evolved? What are current controversies?

*Teacher: Jonathan Wight, professor emeritus, Economics, University of Richmond*

Th • Jan 15 - Mar 5  
9:30 - 10:30

### **Memoir Writing**

*8-week course: In person only.*

Join us to write about your life or family history and learn some techniques to help you tell those stories better.

*Teacher: Emily Walls Ray, MFA, creative writing, VCU; retired English teacher; author*

Th • Jan 15 - Mar 5  
9:30 - 10:30

### **Intermediate French**

*8-week course: In person only.*

In addition to reading French literature excerpts, students will practice speaking, refresh knowledge of

grammatical structures, and enrich vocabulary. Students will read short stories/excerpts of novels by Voltaire, Honoré de Balzac, Gustave Flaubert, Paul Claudel, André Gide, Francois Mauriac, Simone de Beauvoir, and Marcel Aymé. Texts will be scanned and shared with students prior to each class.

*Teacher: My Guidarelli, adjunct faculty, French, VCU, School of World Studies*

Th • Jan 15 - Mar 5  
11:00 - 12:00

### **Ireland's Revolutionary Era Through the Eyes of a Dramatist**

*8-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

An in-depth examination of five plays by Sean O'Casey that chronicle seminal events in Irish history: the "Dublin lockout" of 1913, Ireland's role in the Great War, The 1916 Easter Uprising, The War of Independence, and the Irish Civil War. The instructor's direct experience with the plays and his relationship with the O'Casey family will inform his approach to the material.

*Teacher: John Countryman, retired theatre professor; gerontologist; storyteller*

Th • Jan 15 - Mar 5  
11:00 - 12:00

### **Creative Writing - Let's Just Do It**

*8-week course: In person only.*

Is there something you always wanted to write but simply haven't? Or perhaps you just want to learn about and hear some exquisite writing. Let's explore all forms of the written word. Welcome!

*Teacher: Nan Ottenritter, Richmond-based published poet and lover of the word.*

Th • Jan 15 - Mar 5  
11:00 - 12:00

### **Your Muse is You**

*8-week course: In person and via Zoom.*

However you may view your creative abilities, they are not limited to what you are able to do with a blank sheet of paper. This course was inspired by all those who have wondered about their creative abilities, and it is intended to help you discover and enhance the innate creative abilities you may, or may not, believe you have. It will focus both on psychological and biological research for its content.

**Limited to 16 in-person students; reserve a seat by calling The Shepherd's Center office at 804-355-7282. Zoom attendance unlimited.**

*Teacher: Jim Brown, retired coordinator of Visual Arts Education, Wayne State University*

*Th • Jan 15 - Mar 5*

*11:00 - 12:00*

### **Learn to Love Your iPhone**

*3-week course: In person only.*

1) Settings: Siri, face recognition, contacts, alarms, do not disturb, calendar, reminders 2) Email: cut/paste, safety, passwords, shopping 3) Photos and screen shots: editing, sharing, and social media; Apps: books, music, languages, hobbies, directions, weather, news, notes, and journaling.

*Teacher: Joanna Walker, retired salesperson, professional programming services*

*Th • Jan 15 - Jan 29*

*11:00 - 12:00*

### **Perspectives on the Battle of Gettysburg: Before, During and After**

*5-week course: In person only.*

Assigned reading is portions of the Pulitzer Prize-winning historical novel about Gettysburg by Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels*. The course reviews the sectional strife that led to the Civil War, Robert E. Lee's road to Gettysburg, Shaara's perspective on leadership during the battle, and Abraham Lincoln's evolving war objectives culminating in his famous "remarks" at the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, delivered four months after the battle.

*Teacher: Al Goethals, E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Professor in Leadership Studies Emeritus, University of Richmond*

*Th • Feb 5 - Mar 5*

*11:00 - 12:00*

## **Thursday Lunch Speakers**

At Lakeside United Methodist Church  
2333 Hilliard Road

Included with Open University tuition.

Free with \$25 Shepherd's Center membership.  
Held in person and via Zoom.

### **Based on a True Story: The House is on Fire and the Richmond Theater Fire**

*Phillip Ford, mobile library services, Henrico County Public Library*

*Th • Jan 15*

*12:30 - 1:30*

## **Thursday Lunch Speakers, Cont.**

### **Managing Points of View with Family and Friends**

*Dr. Pamela Struss, executive director, Greater Richmond Community Mediation Center, Resolution Virginia*

*Th • Jan 22*

*12:30 - 1:30*

### **Music and Mathematics**

*Gene Anderson, retired University of Richmond music professor*

*Th • Jan 29*

*12:30 - 1:30*

### **From Hospital to Healing**

*Danielle Richardson, hospital clinical liaison at Marquis Healthcare Consulting*

*Th • Feb 5*

*12:30 - 1:30*

### **Christmas Night 1776: How Did They Cross?**

Bill Welsch, current and founding president of the American Revolution Round Table of Richmond

*Th • Feb 12*

*12:30 - 1:30*

### **Using Your Resources to Make a Better World**

*Wortie Ferrell, II, managing director, Davenport & Company*

*Th • Feb 19*

*12:30 - 1:30*

### **Collections Curiosities**

*Lisa Denton, recreation coordinator II, history programs, Henrico Recreation & Parks*

*Th • Feb 26*

*12:30 - 1:30*

### **The Witch of Pungo**

*Scott Moore, associate professor of history and assistant department chair, Eastern Connecticut State University*

*Th • Mar 5*

*12:30 - 1:30*

## **Fridays - New Location!**

At Avery Point  
1000 Avery Point Way  
Richmond, VA 23233

### **Review of the World's Religions**

8-week course: *In person and via Zoom.*

Based on Huston Smith's book, *The World's Religions*, and other material, we will review the basic ideas and origins of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. One week reviews the background of Huston Smith's career, two weeks on Hinduism, two weeks on Buddhism, one week on Judaism and Christianity and two weeks on Islam. If you plan to attend in-person at Avery Point as a non-resident, please email the instructor before January 15 at [halcostley@aol.com](mailto:halcostley@aol.com) for specific information regarding directions.

*Teacher: Hal Costley, retired engineer; active driver, instructor, board member, and treasurer, Shepherd's Center of Richmond*

Fri • Jan 16 - Mar 13 (no class Feb 13)  
10:00 - 11:00

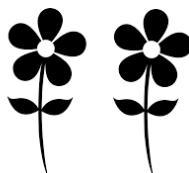
## **Announcement!**

We regret to announce that Judith O. Buchanan's courses, *Intermediate Italian* and *Ciao, Bella! Beginning Italian*, have been removed from the winter schedule due to injury of the teacher.

We hope to be able to offer these courses in the spring 2026 session. Watch for more information about that possibility closer to the time.

Thank you for your understanding.

**Spring session of  
the Open University  
begins  
Monday, March 23,  
at St. Luke Lutheran.**



## **Lunch & Life**

**Lunch & Life, a lecture series held on Wednesdays and in partnership with St. Mary's Catholic Church, is FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; no registration or Shepherd's Center membership required.**

Lunch is from 12:00 – 12:30.

Speakers are from 12:30 – 1:30.

Beverages and desserts are provided by the church. Please bring a sandwich.

St. Mary's is located at 9505 Gayton Road. Enter from the lower side parking lot. In person only; not available online via Zoom.

### **Richmond Region:**

#### **Why It's the Best Place to Visit**

*Danielle Fitz-Hugh, vice-president of community relations, Richmond Region Tourism*

Wednesday • Jan 14

12:30 - 1:30

### **Urban Wildlife of Richmond and the James River**

*Bill Draper, nature photographer*

Wednesday • Jan 21

12:30 - 1:30

### **Spy Pilot: The U-2 Incident and Controversial Cold War Legacy**

*Francis Gary Powers, Jr., MPA, MA, US History, founder and interim chairman; The Cold War Museum*

Wednesday • Jan 28

12:30 - 1:30

### **Safety for Seniors**

*Dori Abell, director of sales and operations, Amada Senior Care*

Wednesday • Feb 4

12:30 - 1:30

# Open University Tuition Winter 2026

Dr.  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

first name

middle initial

last name

street address: \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Shepherd's Center membership (7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026)\*

\$55 member tuition

Optional donation to The Shepherd's Center\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$85 non-member tuition

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I do NOT give The Shepherd's Center permission to use my photo for promotional materials.

\* tax-deductible

Make check payable to: **The Shepherd's Center**

**Can't remember if you paid membership?**

Mail to: 5101 Monument Ave., #105, Richmond, VA 23230

**Call and ask! 804-355-7282**

## To Pay Tuition:

### 2 Ways to Pay Tuition

1 **ONLINE:** [tscor.org](http://tscor.org)

2 **MAIL:** Complete a tuition slip, make check payable to **The Shepherd's Center**, and mail to: 5101 Monument Ave., #105, Richmond, VA 23230

## To Get Zoom Links:

- 1) Pay tuition one week before the courses or lunch speaker is scheduled.
- 2) An email from The Shepherd's Center of Richmond is sent to your email every Sunday evening containing Zoom links for the following week.
- 3) If an email does not appear in your in-box, look in your spam and junk folders.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q. What is Open University?

A. A lifelong learning program of The Shepherd's Center of Richmond.

### Q. What is The Shepherd's Center of Richmond?

A. A volunteer-driven nonprofit, whose mission encourages older adults to remain active and engaged.

### Q. When is Open University?

A. In the fall, winter, and spring during 8-week sessions.

### Q. Where is Open University?

A. At 4 separate locations: Southside, Lakeside, Monument Ave., and Avery Point. See schedule for details.

### Q. Do I have to register for individual courses?

A. No, you do not.\* One tuition payment gives you access to everything in this schedule. Just pay tuition, choose what you want to attend, and enjoy! \* Some courses may have a student limit. If so, this will be noted in the course description.

### Q. What does Open University cost?

A. For members of The Shepherd's Center, tuition costs \$55 per session. For non-members, it costs \$85 per session.

### Q. Is membership required?

A. No, but if you would like to support the Center and enjoy a discount on tuition, membership is only \$25 for one year (July 1 through the following June 30). Lunch talks are free with membership.

### Q. Can I try one day for free?

A. Yes! Attend one day of Open University for free. If you decide you want to come back, you can pay tuition on-site at that time.

## To Contact The Shepherd's Center:

804-355-7282

[tscor@tscor.org](mailto:tscor@tscor.org)



The Shepherd's Center of Richmond  
5101 Monument Ave., Suite 105  
Richmond, Virginia 23230



## OPEN UNIVERSITY

### **The Shepherd's Center of Richmond**

*The Shepherd's Center of Richmond encourages older adults to remain active and independent through enrichment programs and volunteer service to their peers.*

**FOUNDED IN 1984**

In-person, online, and hybrid courses and lunch talks offered Mondays through Fridays.

**Winter 2026 Session:**

**Monday, Jan. 12 - Friday, Mar. 6**

*Details inside.*

Attend **ALL COURSES** and **LUNCH TALKS** in this schedule for just **ONE tuition payment!**

*Registration for individual courses not required unless noted in the course description.*



Scan to learn more about Open University!