



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

Not "My Favorite" Cherry Tree!: Presidential Legends and Lore

8-week course: In person and via Zoom.

Together we will consider the value of collective memory, in this instance, how public recollection contributes to a heritage shared by American presidents and those they represent, as reflected in speeches, interviews, anecdotes, and humor. As a group, we may even attempt to forecast the future of collective memory - for ourselves and our posterity!

Teacher: Linda Hobgood, retired director, University of Richmond Speech Center; faculty member, Rhetoric and Communication Studies

M • Sept 21 - Nov 9

9:30 - 10:30

French I for Seniors, Continuing

5-week course: In person only.

Welcome to French I, a beginner's course designed for senior adults. This course offers a supportive environment for learning the basics of the French language. Whether you're planning to travel, interested in French culture, or simply looking to keep your mind active, this class is for you. You will learn to greet people, introduce yourself, ask and answer simple questions, and navigate everyday situations. **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 • Sept 21 - Oct 19

9:30 - 10:30

Films From the 1970's

8-week course: In person and via Zoom.

As we move into a new decade, we will continue to examine how popular American movies affect and reflect our concerns, ideals, and society. We will discuss the selected films in this

order: *Cabaret*, *The Godfather*, *Young*

Frankenstein, and *Chinatown* Although these

movies may be fifty years old, do they still engage our interest and entertain us?

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

M • Sept 21 - Nov 9

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

M • Sept 21 - Nov 9

9:30 - 10:30

Preview of the Midterm Elections

1-week course: In person only.

An education and explanation of the significance of the various Congressional races - what to look for on election night or the next day, focusing on key Senate races in Georgia, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas, and House races in Virginia, New York, and New Jersey.

Teacher: Conrad Eberstein, lifelong political junkie

M • Sept 21

9:30 - 10:30

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

Mondays, continued

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*

M • Sept 28 - Oct 12

9:30 - 10:30

Mindfulness Based Practices for Stress Reduction

4-week course: In person and via Zoom with a virtual instructor.

This course offers a gentle, supportive introduction to mindfulness practices that help reduce stress and cultivate compassion in everyday life.

Participants will learn simple and accessible tools to navigate life transitions, care for emotional well-being, and deepen a sense of inner calm and connection.

Teacher: Carolina Bautista-Velez, certified Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program teacher; teacher trainer; mentor

M • Oct 19 - Nov 9

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

M • Sept 21 - Nov 9

11:00 - 12:00

Intermediate Italian

8-week course: In person only.

This course is a continuation for students who have completed the Beginning Italian course. We will learn to speak using past, future and conditional tenses to improve conversational, reading and writing skills. Text: *Grammatica pratica della lingua italiana*, Susanna Nocchi, ISBN 978-88-6182-736-3

Teacher: Judy Buchanan, MA, Italian language and literature, UNC Chapel Hill; studied and traveled in Italy for two summers with Fulbright Grants for teachers

M • Sept 21 - Nov 9

11:00 - 12:00

The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins, 1868

8-week course: In person and via Zoom.

Described by T.S. Eliot as "the first, the longest and the best of modern English detective novels" (a claim later disputed), *The Moonstone* is much, much more. British colonialism, racism, socio-economic inequity, gender relations, disability, and narrative innovation are just a few of the factors that render this novel a fascinating read. Serialized in Charles Dickens' magazine *All the Year Round*, and published as a standalone volume, the whodunnit follows the search for a stolen gem. An edition with copious annotations is recommended. Students are asked to read the prologue before the first class.

Teacher: Maria Scott, AA, theatre; PhD, English language and literature

M • Sept 21 - Nov 9

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 • Sept 21 - Nov 9

11:00 - 12:00

Spanish in 8 Weeks

8-week course: In person only.

A dynamic, immersive, and highly engaging course crafted specifically for adult beginners, designed to maximize your Spanish learning through real-life communication, interactive activities, and a supportive community. Real conversations, cultural insights, and practical tools (instead of the pressure of memorization and grammar drills) will have you speaking Spanish in a fun, relaxed environment that encourages participation and builds confidence.

Limited to 18 students. Students must reserve a seat in the course by calling The Shepherd's Center office at 804-355-7282.

Teacher: Javier Petriz, Spanish language facilitator; BS industrial engineering, Mexico City

M • Sept 21 - Nov 9

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.

Conserving and Protecting the James River for Generations to Come

Shawn Ralston, vice-president, programs, James River Association

M • Sept 21

12:30 - 1:30

Richmond's Historic Cemeteries

Ryan Smith, professor, history, VCU

M • Sep 28

12:30 - 1:30

Heart Health

Jaime Smiley, health care consultant

M • Oct 5

12:30 - 1:30

Pocahontas: Her Life and Legend

Maggie Creech, director, history education, Virginia Museum of History and Culture

M • Oct 12

12:30 - 1:30

Language and Identity Among the Highland Mayas of Guatemala

Robert McKenna Brown, professor emeritus, College of Humanities and Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University

M • Oct 19

12:30 - 1:30

The Future of Local News

Michael Phillips, former editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch

M • Oct 26

12:30 - 1:30

Bet I Can Make You Laugh: Fact, Fiction, and Standup Comedy

Barbara Ingber, award-winning freelance writer

M • Nov 2

12:30 - 1:30

Midterm Elections: Wave or Whimper

Dan Palazzolo, professor, political science, UR

M • Nov 9

12:30 - 1:30

Tuesdays

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

Intermediate French

8-week course: In person only.

Students will learn various aspects of French culture through excerpts from novels and short stories by modern authors such as Albert Camus, Marcel Pagnol, and Raphaëlle Giordano. They will also get acquainted with writings in other genres. Readings and discussions of those texts will be opportunities to review grammatical points, enrich students' vocabulary, and practice speaking.

Teacher: My Guidarelli, adjunct faculty, French, Virginia Commonwealth University, School of World Studies

Tu • Sept 22 - Nov 10

9:00 - 10:00

Beginning Italian

8-week course: In person only.

This course is an introduction to Italian language, geography, and culture. It is designed for those who would like to understand and respond in simple situations, such as restaurants, hotels, and shops. Textbook: *Basic Italian*, Alessandra Visconti, ISBN 978-1-264-80780-2

Teacher: Judy Buchanan, MA, Italian language and literature, UNC Chapel Hill; studied and traveled in Italy for two summers with Fulbright Grants for teachers

Tu • Sept 22 - Nov 10

10:30 - 11:30

German for Life-Long Learners

8-week course: In person only.

English and German are branches within the same language family. But German has many characteristics that make it easier to read and accurately pronounce than English. This course will explore them through reading and reciting of short poems, stories, and songs, with interspersed forays into pronunciation practice and grammar explanations.

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

Tu • Sept 22 - Nov 10

12:00 - 1:00

Tuesdays, continued

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

"Was ist los?" Intermediate German

8-week course: In person and via Zoom with a virtual instructor.

Free conversation "Über Gott und die Welt."
Reading skill with Andre Klein's *Cafe in Berlin*. For students with some knowledge of basic grammar and vocabulary. Worksheets supplied by the teacher. Book available through Amazon.

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

Tu • Sept 22 - Nov 10

1:30 - 2:30

"Genki?" 日本語 Intermediate Japanese

8-week course: In person and via Zoom with a virtual instructor.

Free conversation, grammar, and reading skills. Textbook *Japanese for Busy People 1*, Romanized version. Listening skills with *Pimsleur* audio. Continued study of the 2 syllable writing systems hiragana ひらがな and katakana カタカナ. Some kanji 漢字. Textbook available through Amazon.

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

Tu • Sept 22 - Nov 10

3:00 - 4:00

Thursdays

At Lakeside United Methodist Church
2333 Hilliard Road

News Information Flow in Our World Today

8-week course: In person only.

How do we consume, process, and discuss the news today? In a democracy, staying informed matters—but with constant information from countless sources, it can feel overwhelming. Instead of tuning out, join us to explore how we can engage with the news thoughtfully, both individually and together.

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

Th Sept 24 - Nov 12

9:30 - 10:30

Beethoven: The Turbulent Life of the World's Greatest Composer

8-week course: In person and via Zoom.

The life and music of the son of an alcoholic father and a tubercular mother who overcame a difficult childhood and problematic adulthood to become a pianist and composer of genius.

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

Th Sept 24 - Nov 12

9:30 - 10:30

Dress Codes: How Fabric and Fashion Shaped History

4-week course: In person and via Zoom.

As a character the movie *Steel Magnolias* quips, "The only thing that separates us from the animals is our ability to accessorize." Throughout history, clothing and accessories have shaped identity and social order. This course explores dress regulation, fashion's celebration of individuality, its role in revolutions, and the influence of gender on style and textile production.

Teacher: Anne Throckmorton, associate professor, Randolph-Macon College

Th Sept 24 - Oct 15

9:30 - 10:30

Leading Women of Richmond

4-week course: In person and via Zoom.

Four Richmond-focused lectures from Valentine Museum educators about leading women, the suffrage movement, and local style - a fashion rewind.

Teachers: four individual educators from The Valentine

Th Oct 22 - Nov 12

9:30 - 10:30

Storying Later Life

8-week course: In person only.

The challenges of aging are deeply shaped by the stories we tell. Using the principles of narrative gerontology, this course explores later life through stories by, for, and about older adults. Students will examine how narrative shapes identity, meaning, and wellbeing in the experience of aging.

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

Th Sept 24 - Nov 12

11:00 - 12:00

A Shakespeare Sonnet Seminar

8-week course: In person only.

In this seminar, we will discuss how Shakespeare uses the sonnet form and language to heighten the emotional impact of his meaning. By looking at some of his most famous sonnets, we will learn more about this unique artist and his times while exploring the idea that these poems are as meaningful today as they were in the late sixteenth century.

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

Th Sept 24 - Nov 12

11:00 - 12:00

Jew and Christian in Medieval Europe

8-week course: In person and via Zoom with a virtual instructor.

This course explores the Jewish experience in Europe from the late Roman through the medieval eras, examining Jewish-Christian relations, law, economy, intellectual life, persecution, and the development of the medieval Jewish diaspora.

Teacher: David Routt, adjunct professor, history, University of Richmond

Th Sept 24 - Nov 12

11:00 - 12:00

Talks About the History, Culture, and Life of Singapore from a Long-Term U.S. Expatriate

4-week course: In person and via Zoom.

1) Founding, geography, leadership, and global role of Singapore. 2) Multicultural society, cuisine, languages, and religions. 3) World-class transit, housing, dining, and green spaces. 4) British-inspired governance, compulsory voting, and strong social-order laws.

Teacher: Dana Rabhar-Daniels, former adjunct professor, adult learning, Virginia Commonwealth University

Th Oct 22 - Nov 12

11:00 - 12:00

Go Take Some Pictures

4-week course: In person only

Explore the ordinary around you and see if you can make it interesting with a photograph. **Limited to 12 students. Students must reserve a seat in the course by sending their name, phone, and email to PPettit@tscom.org.**

Teacher: Peter Pettit, amateur photographer; past president, The Shepherd's Center of Richmond

Th Oct 22 - Nov 12

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.

History Myth Busters - Historic Homes Revisited

Lisa Denton, recreation coordinator II, history programs

Th • Sept 24

12:30 - 1:30

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

Francis Gary Powers, Jr., founder, interim chairman, The Cold War Museum

Th • Oct 1

12:30 - 1:30

Engine 9

Susan Micari, writer; activist; educational therapist

Th • Oct 8

12:30 - 1:30

Bald Eagles of the James River

Mike Ostrander, owner, Discover the James

Th • Oct 15

12:30 - 1:30

The Shockoe Institute: Reckoning with the Enduring Impact of Slavery in America

Megan Shockley, historian, Shockoe Institute, Library of Virginia

Th • Oct 22

12:30 - 1:30

What to Expect from the Supreme Court's New Term

Lauren Bell, James L. Miller professor, political science, Randolph-Macon College

Th • Oct 29

12:30 - 1:30

Across Oceans, Across Virginia: Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Stories in Virginia

Emma Ito, director of education, Virginia Humanities; adjunct professor, Virginia Commonwealth University Honors College

Th • Nov 5

12:30 - 1:30

Gyorgy Kepes, Artist, Educator, and Bauhaus Archetype

Jim Brown, retired coordinator, visual arts education, Wayne State University

Th • Nov 12

12:30 - 1:30

Fridays

At Avery Point
1000 Avery Point Way
Richmond, VA 23233

Genesis Perspectives and Genesis Characters

8-week course: In person and via Zoom.

Jim Noland, a retired United Methodist pastor, will discuss the meaning of the book of Genesis for modern readers. Hal Costley will provide biographical perspectives on four of the individuals discussed in the book of Genesis: Enoch, Abraham, Melchizedek and Joseph. Jim will open the first week and they will alternate weeks subsequently. If you plan to attend in-person at Avery Point as a non-resident, please email the instructor at halcostley@aol.com for specific information regarding directions.

Teachers: Hal Costley, retired engineer; active driver, instructor, board member, and treasurer, The Shepherd's Center of Richmond; with Jim Noland, retired United Methodist pastor

Fri • Sep 25 - Nov 13
1:00 - 2:00

Fridays

At 5101 Monument Ave.
Richmond, VA 23230

Seeing Contemporary Art for the First Time

8-week course: In person only.

This course will provide a new way of understanding contemporary arts, by going to local galleries and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to observe and conduct serious dialogue about what we see. All you need to bring is a mind that is open to challenging ideas.

NOTE: The first class meets at 5101 Monument Ave., Suite 105. The following classes meet at the VMFA and other local galleries.

Teacher: Jim Brown, retired coordinator of visual arts education, Wayne State University

Fri • Sep 25 - Nov 13
1:00 - 2:00

Lunch & Life

Lunch & Life is a lecture series held on Wednesdays in partnership with St. Mary's Catholic Church.

It 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.

Give Me Liberty: Virginia and the Forging of a Nation

Sam Florer, director, public programs, Virginia Museum of History and Culture

Wednesday • Sept 23
12:30 - 1:30

New Thoughts and Approaches to the Problem and Treatment of Obesity

Peter Goodman, retired gastroenterologist

Wednesday • Sept 30
12:30 - 1:30

A Nation of Immigrants: Past Policies, Future Challenges

Gabriela León-Pérez, associate professor, Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Wednesday • Oct 7
12:30 - 1:30

The Accidental Journalist - Lanie's Story

Patty Kruszewski, managing editor, Henrico Citizen

Wednesday • Oct 14
12:30 - 1:30

Open University Tuition Fall 2026

☐ ☐ Dr. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. Ms. _____
first name middle initial last name

street address: _____

city, state, zip: _____

home phone: _____ cell phone: _____

email: _____

☐ **\$180 Tuition Deal:** includes \$25 membership and 1 year tuition. (Current members pay only \$155.)

☐ \$25 Shepherd's Center membership (7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027)*

☐ \$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
- 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 is sent to you every Sunday evening with the Zoom links for the following week. Please do not unsubscribe from these emails.
- 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. There are three, 8-week sessions in the fall, winter, and spring.

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



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.

Fall 2026 Session:
Monday, Sept 21 -
Friday, Nov 13

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!