



***Institute for Learning in Retirement
at Oak Hammock at the University of Florida***
Serving the Gainesville Community

The Institute for Learning in Retirement is dedicated to the enjoyment and continual learning of its members. The courses described in this bulletin are the result of the work of many dedicated volunteers from both Oak Hammock and the broader community. These volunteers organize and facilitate the courses, the discussion groups, the special and social events, and all the things that make membership in ILR so unique and interesting.

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Cultivate Your Mind!

Message from the Chair

Let ILR Summer 2025 Courses Delight You

We invite you and your friends to join us for what promises to be one of our best summer programs ever!

- Come engage in discussions about Current Hot Topics or
- Be amazed at the range of topics in our two “One”ders series.
- Want to know about a community action project? We have that too.
- Sign up for our ever popular “Adventures in Living”,
- Great ideas are everywhere.

TIP—If you and your spouse/partner sign up on the same registration form, please indicate the individual courses for which each spouse is registering. Payment is for each course and each individual.

To assure yourself a spot in our summer program, sign up now.

See you soon!

Henri Logan, PhD
ILR Board Chair

Summer 2025 Courses

Summer “One”ders 1 Mondays at 1:30 pm in the Oak Room

July 7- Submarines, Submarines, and Life in a Submarine

Speaker: Walter Wynn, PhD & Jack Dickson

Facilitator: Walter Wynn

Walter will discuss the life of a young officer in diesel and nuclear submarines. Jack will discuss the life of an enlisted man as a baker in diesel submarines. Ask them about Cold War submarine operations.

July 14- Recovering Old Treasured Photos Using Digital Technology and AI

Speaker: Don Smith

Facilitator: Pushpa Kalra

Have you ever wondered how dead people can talk? Does the camera never lie? Digital tools used to recover and improve old photographs taken with analog technology will be described, accompanied by demonstrations of some amazing results. Information will be provided on how to use this technology, even by those with limited computer skills.

July 21- “James” Book Discussion

Speaker: Paul Ortiz, Professor of Labor History, Cornell University, Director of Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at UF (2008-2024) (speaker on Zoom)

Facilitator: Roy Hunt

Professor Ortiz will share his analysis of Percival Everett’s “James,” described in The New York Times as a “bold reimagining” of Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” and a “tangled and subversive homage.”

July 28- Dictatorship: A Modern Idea?

Speaker: Adam Lebovitz, Assistant Professor of Humanities, UF Hamilton School of Classical And Civic Education

Facilitator: Rick Gold

Adam Lebovitz traces the history of dictatorship from the Roman Republic to the present day, asking how this word was transformed from a mainstay of free government into a byword for tyranny. He will ask how the American constitutional tradition has tried to assimilate the Roman model of dictatorship at three highly-charged moments: the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the First World War. The roots of our modern crisis of presidential powers, he will suggest, extend into our distant past. And getting to grips with the idea of republican dictatorship may suggest new possibilities for the present.

August 4- Your Story Your Legacy: The Benefits of Charitable Gift Planning

Speaker: John Dickhaus, J.D., Director of Estate and Planned Giving, UF

Facilitator: Leslie Bram

Discover how gift planning can help create a lasting legacy while maximizing financial and tax benefits for you and your loved ones. This presentation will explore simple, impactful ways to support the causes you care about, using assets like retirement accounts, securities, tangible personal property, and more.

August 11-Where History Lives: Alachua County History Through the Matheson Family's Story

Speaker: Salvatore J. Cumella, Executive Director, Matheson History Museum

Facilitator: Roy Hunt

“History isn’t just dates and events—it’s people, families, and the stories they leave behind. In this presentation, journey through Alachua County’s past alongside the Matheson family, whose multi-generational legacy offers a window into the region’s evolving identity. Discover how their experiences help us understand our shared history—and how the Matheson History Museum keeps those stories alive.”

UF Student Research Projects Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Oak Room Facilitator: Walter Wynn, PhD

July 8- Will Florida Have Radioactive Roads in the Future?

Speaker: Jordan Magnuson, PhD student in sustainable materials management and beneficial reuse of industrial wastes in environmental engineering

Jordan will discuss the beneficial use of phosphogypsum (PG) in road construction. PG is a hazardous and slightly radioactive waste product of phosphate fertilizer production. Her research in partnership with Mosaic seeks to sequester PG in paving materials.

July 15- What Wildlife Is in Our Sewer Pipes? Where Does Cogon grass Come From? What Are We Doing to Our Planet?

Speaker: Alan Ivory, is a PhD student in the IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center.

Alan will discuss the environmental impact of infrastructure construction on wildlife and the impact to southeastern forests caused by the introduction of non-native grasses such as Cogon grass.

July 22- How Can We Locate and Track Invasive Snakes and other species in South Florida? A Novel Portable Detection Device.

Speaker: Melody Bloch, is a PhD student in vector entomology lab IFAS FLREC Ft. Lauderdale.

Melody studies the problematic effects caused by introduction of non-native species. These species can negatively affect the environment, the economy, and human safety. As they expand their range in Florida, there is an increasing need for multi-taxa detection and monitoring capabilities. Many species are difficult to locate visually. Environmental DNA (eDNA) is a promising solution. **(speaker on Zoom)**

July 29- Beneficial Effects of Hippo Poop on the Mara River System

Speaker: Tavis Goldwire was the winner of the best student paper award in the Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Tavis will discuss how the Hippos' unique foraging behavior combined with their semi-amphibious lifestyle results in a large-scale transfer of terrestrial nutrient inputs into the Mara River system. This is primarily through egestion, which carries a vast diversity of active microbes. Many aquatic species depend on hippo egestion for food which may potentially introduce these hippo gut microbes into their own communities.

August 5- How To Capture Invasive Giant African Land Snails in Barbados

Speaker: Eric Trotman, PhD student in the Department of Biology

Eric will discuss his research topic including field work studying the invasive snails in Barbados. He conducted gastropod surveys across the island and assessed the efficacy of a novel trap design for utilization by farmers and home gardeners.

August 12- What Can We Learn from Movements of the White Ibis?

Speaker: Chris Gulick, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Chris will discuss his research into white ibis' movements in the southeastern US, their dispersal, their networks, and survival using satellite telemetry. He studied the impacts of the gulf oil spill on populations of migratory and nomadic wading birds.

August 19- How Will Cacao Pod Disease Affect Chocoholics?

Speaker: Mariana Herrera Corzo, PhD Student in Plant Pathology

Mariana will discuss how cacao, the key ingredient in chocolate, is under threat from black pod disease caused by *Phytophthora* species. Her research explores how different cacao clones respond to infection in the lab, and how the

Summer 2025 Courses

Road to Independence **Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Oak Room** **Speaker: Richard MacMaster, PhD (History)** **Facilitator: Rick Gold**

In 1766 most Americans considered themselves loyal subjects of the best of kings. Ten years later the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Was this inevitable or the result of a blundering generation? We will look at six aspects of this tumultuous decade and how recent historians interpret each one.

July 8- The Rights of Englishmen

A Bill of Rights, separation of powers, and a steady increase in the authority of the House of Commons was confirmed by the "Glorious Revolution" in 1688. Did this extend to the American Colonies?

July 15- A World of Goods

The 18th century "consumer revolution" vastly enlarged the market for what were previously luxury goods. As immigration and agricultural expansion made the American market more valuable to the British economy, trade regulation increased, but it had always been a factor.

July 22- Westward Ho?

The Proclamation of 1763 closed the frontier to the outrage of elite land speculators and would-be settlers alike. Ben Franklin and others lobbied for a new trans-Appalachian colony, while backcountry inhabitants sought fairer representation in colonial legislatures and courts and were prepared to fight for it.

July 29- The Power of the Purse

The elected lower house in each of the American Colonies had virtually complete authority by 1763 but they were stymied at every turn by governors and judges at home and by the Board of Trade and the British Parliament. Virginia's attempt to curb the slave trade by taxation is a case in point.

Aug. 5- Desperate Times, Desperate Measures

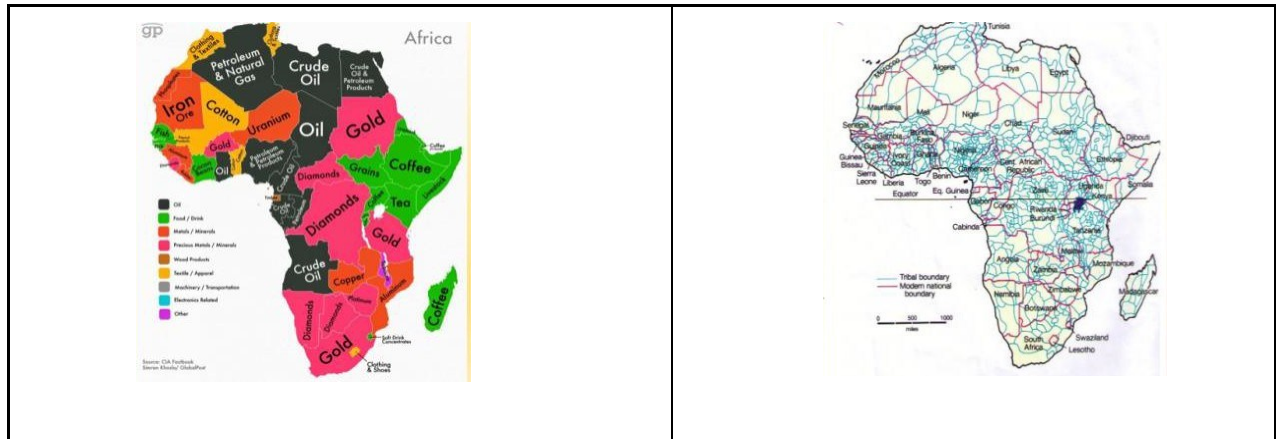
Unified opposition to the Stamp Act by American and British merchants brought its repeal in 1766. The Colonies challenged successive attempts to tax them with voluntary non-importation agreements. By 1774, it was clear that this strategy required coercion to be effective.

Aug. 12- The Road to Independence

Armed conflict began at Lexington and Concord in April 1775. After a year of warfare, with an army of British and Hessian troops en route to crush the rebellion, each of the thirteen Colonies came to decide for independence by a different route and the outcome was never certain.

Summer 2025 Courses

Africa Interest Group Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room



The course explores the development of an Africa Interest Group. The goal is to institutionalize the study of Africa at ILR. Lectures and discussions will focus on the contributions of Africa to civilization and the significance of Africa in the global context. Major historical movements in African history will be examined. The scope of the Center for African Studies at UF will be presented as a resource guide.

July 8- Definition of terms and an overview of the geography, peoples, history of Africa

Speaker & Facilitator: Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, PhD (African & African American Studies)

July 15- Out of Africa Migration, Trade and Exploration; Major Historical Movements and Impacts on Africa

Speaker & Facilitator: Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, PhD (African & African American Studies)

July 22- African Studies at UF

Speaker: Agnes Ngoma Leslie, Outreach Director, University of Florida Center for African Studies

Facilitator: Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, PhD (African & African American Studies)

July 29- Organization of *Africa Interest Group*: Towards the promotion and institutionalization of African Studies at ILR

Speaker & Facilitator: Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, PhD (African & African American Studies)

Text: Badawi, Zeinab (2025). *An African History of Africa: From the Dawn of Humanity to Independence* New York: Harper Collins Publishers.

Summer 2025 Courses

Adventures in Living **Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Oak Room** **Facilitators: Dick Martin, Deborah Dean,** **Jane Wood, Diane Haines**

In the 12 years since the Adventures in Living program started, we have been treated to the lives of 64 Institute of Learning in Retirement members.

This year we welcome five more members to share their life stories. In addition, we travel Down Memory Lane to honor an adventurer from the past. You are guaranteed to be surprised and delighted!

July 9-Jane Wood

Confessions

July 16-Roger Curtis

Resiliency and Joy: A Vibrant Life

July 23-Wilt Wagner

Down Memory Lane

July 30-Phyllis Saarinen

Life is a Cascade of Choices

Aug. 6-Neill Hollenshead

Can a Water Loving Wolverine become a Gator?

Aug. 13-Mary Christman

A Semi-directed Random Walk



Summer 2025 Courses

Environmental Community Action Project Wednesdays at 1:30 pm in the Acorn Room (IN-PERSON ONLY)

**Speakers: Dr. Megan Ennes, Florida Museum &
Mary Alford, Alachua County Commissioner
Facilitator: Ellen Siegel**

Act Local, Think Generations: Join CAPE

Community Action Project for the Environment (CAPE)

It's our turn to act—for cleaner air, safer water, and a livable future for our grandkids.

Each week, dive into a new hands-on activity: hear from guest experts, tackle real-world problems, and team up with neighbors to spark lasting change. We begin with Dr. Megan Ennes from the Florida Museum, followed by County Commissioner Mary Alford.

Future sessions, shaped by participant interests, will be interactive and solution-focused—facilitated by Ellen Siegel. CAPE is a pilot project of the CLEO Institute and Thompson Earth Systems Institute, with UF researchers studying how older adults lead environmental action and community change. *Your wisdom. Your neighbors. Your impact.*

July 2

July 16

July 30

July 9

July 23



Summer 2025 Courses

Round Table Discussion in the Algonquin Genre Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Multipurpose Room or by ZOOM Moderators: Rick Gold, Dick Suttor

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 Hybrid (In-person or ZOOM, your choice) 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, who must be registered to participate in this class.

July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7, August 14
Class limit: 30 participants

ILR in Action



Summer 2025 Courses

Echoes of the Past, Visions of the Future

Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Oak Room

Facilitators: Rick Gold & Dr. Jaime Ahlberg,

Rothman Chair & Director, Center for Humanities & Public Sphere

Join us for a thought-provoking summer series that bridges history, philosophy, politics, art, and memory. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, we look to the past to better understand the present—and envision more thoughtful paths forward.

How did we get here? What are we missing? What trajectory are we on? And how can we make decisions that respect the human experience while acknowledging the challenges within our control?

This course brings together expert scholars from across the University of Florida to examine timely topics through a humanities lens. Each session invites reflection on the forces—cultural, political, and historical—that shape our shared world.

July 10– What Can Enlightenment Teach Us About Physics?

Speaker: Chris Dorst (Philosophy) – (Speaker on Zoom)

Discover how ideas from the Enlightenment continue to shape our understanding of the universe, as Dr. Dorst explores the philosophical roots of modern science and how historical thinking can inform contemporary discovery.

July 17– Reclaiming the Past: Art, Repatriation, and Colonial Histories

Speaker: Porchia Moore (Art + UF Center for Arts, Migration, and Entrepreneurship)

Dr. Moore investigates the global movement to return African cultural artifacts and examines how this urgent work challenges museums, reshapes narratives, and confronts the legacy of colonialism.

July 24– No class

July 31– Borders, Landscapes, and Law in South America

Speaker: Richard Kernaghan (Anthropology)

Travel with Dr. Kernaghan into the dynamic intersections of geography and governance in South America, where physical landscapes and political borders reveal deep-rooted tensions and cultural meaning.

August 7– Family, Fascism, and Memory: Tracing the Spanish Civil War

Speaker: Carmen Martínez Novo (UF Center for Latin American Studies)

Through personal research into her own family history, Dr. Martínez Novo opens a window onto the broader historical legacies of the Spanish Civil War and ongoing efforts to preserve democratic memory.

August 14– The Power of Protest in American Democracy

Speaker: Stacey Liou (Political Science)

From civil rights to climate action, Dr. Liou discusses how public protest has shaped—and continues to shape—democracy in the United States,



Summer 2025 Courses

Summer “One”ders 2 Thursdays at 1:30 pm in the Oak Room

July 10- Jane Addams

Speaker: Barbara Oberlander, Professor Emerita of History, Santa Fe College

Facilitator: Rick Gold

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover called Jane Addams “ the most dangerous woman in America.” But this was the same woman who founded the settlement house movement with the establishment of Hull House in Chicago, worked for woman suffrage and progressive reforms, and won the Nobel Peace prize for her international efforts. She devoted fifty years of her life to social activism, and her legacy continues today.

July 17- Notre-Dame of Paris almost Destroyed and Reborn: The Saga Extraordinaire

Speaker: Claire M. Germain, Professor of Law Emerita, Cornell & UF. *She grew up in Paris, France, and often walked to Notre Dame, which was 20 minutes away from her home. She returned to visit it in June 2025, for a personal look at the restored cathedral.*

Facilitator: Roy Hunt

Started in 1163, Notre-Dame construction took over two centuries. Many perils threatened this magnificent Gothic cathedral throughout its history. It was close to demolition when architect Viollet-Le-Duc restored it in the 19th century. It was almost totally destroyed by a devastating fire in April 2019. Despite formidable challenges, it reopened in December 2024 as a kind of miracle. What did it take to restore this sanctuary and symbol of Paris’ identity? Why is it such a prized destination for visitors from all over the world, and a place to which people are deeply attached?

July 24- Impact of Exposure to Environmental Contaminants

Speaker: Nancy Denslow, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Physiological Sciences and Center for Environmental and Human Toxicology, UF

Facilitator: Pushpa Kalra

The effects of pesticides, PFAS and microplastics in our water on human and environmental health will be discussed .

July 31- Republic of Panama Expansion of the Panama Canal

Speaker: Kenneth Puckett, Captain and Panama Canal Ship Pilot, Retired

Facilitator: Rick Gold

Captain Puckett will examine the history of the US - Republic of Panama relations regarding the Canal Zone. He will discuss the economic, political, diplomatic and military factors that influenced President Jimmy Carter's decision to transfer control of the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama. He will also provide an update on President Trump's decision to attempt to take back control of the Panama Canal.

August 7- Leading an Armored Recon Platoon of the First Infantry Division in Vietnam

Speaker: Kenny Whitley, Colonel in US Army, Retired

Facilitator: Laura Berns

Unlike most war movies, this talk will not recount the actual combat but will instead discuss the countless things that take a toll on soldiers’ mental health in a war zone. It focuses on what a 22-year-old Lieutenant, the second oldest member of a combat unit of 33 men, had to master while carrying out a difficult mission and trying not to lose a soldier's life.

August 14- Improv: It’s All Made Up

Speaker: Karelisa Hartigan, Professor of Classics at UF, Retired

Facilitator: Sheila Dickison

She has been doing various types of improv for 25 years: at Shands Hospital, in a program for the rehabilitation of veterans, and with Alzheimer patients. Her troupes today have been under her leadership for 10+ years at Elder Care Senior Center. The senior center improv troops will present a show where everything is made up at that moment.

Summer 2025 Courses

FLASH POINT –Current Hot Topics Explore Controversial Policy Issues with Scholars and Friends Fridays at 1:30 pm in the Acorn Room Facilitators: Danaya Wright & Dale Campbell

July 11-

Would you like to have the opportunity to discuss current critical issues with friends and experts? During the first meeting, participants will decide on the topics for five seminars this summer, and our facilitators will invite specialists to provide insights and provoke discussion for the following weeks. You will also receive recommended sources if you wish to learn more about your chosen issues.

Speaker & Facilitator: Danaya Wright, Co-Director, Center for Governmental Responsibility, UF Law School

July 17- To be determined by the registrants

July 25- To be determined by the registrants

August 1- To be determined by the registrants

August 8- To be determined by the registrants

August 15- To be determined by the registrants

<https://www.law.ufl.edu/areas-of-study/centers-and-programs/governmental-responsibility>

Registration!

2 Ways to Register for classes: Online or by Mail



1. Online REGISTRATION and PAYMENT:

After reviewing the bulletin, click on the Registration Link below, select your class choices and then press SUBMIT !

You will see a screen that says your registration is complete.

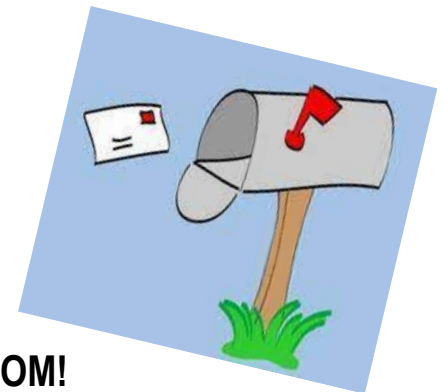
Online payment and registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/243516751289060>

- 2025 Membership Dues are \$20 for those who have not yet paid.
- If you have a credit voucher, please do not pay online. Attach your credit voucher to your registration with your check.
- Everyone that registers must pay for their classes, including Oak Hammock residents, town people, and Canopy Club members.

2. Register and Pay by Mail:

Print the registration form by clicking on the email attachment.
Complete the information and mail to:

ILR at Oak Hammock
5100 SW 25th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32608



SEE YOU SOON—IN CLASS OR ON ZOOM!

Please call Pam at 352-548-1009 if you have any questions Or

ILR@oakhammock.org

Summer 2025 Courses

Visit the [website at www.oakhammock.org/ilr](http://www.oakhammock.org/ilr)
Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ILR352>
Call Pam at 352-548-1009
or email ILR@oakhammock.org for more information.



ILR is maintaining a **YouTube channel** where previously recorded class sessions may be viewed in case you miss a class or want to take another look.

NEW STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Click the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@ohilrlearninghut9203/playlists>
2. This will show you all the courses for which we have recorded lectures.
3. Find the course you are interested in, and then click on “View Full Playlist” at the bottom of the course panel. This will display all the recorded lectures for that course.
4. Click on the lecture you wish to see...and off you go.
5. To return to “View Full Playlist,” menu, click on the black arrow pointing left, in the upper margin. You can now repeat the process to view other lectures for that or other courses.
6. If you do not see a recorded lecture you want to view, contact Pam.

ILR is dedicated to continuing its quality programs. If you have ideas for the Curriculum Committee on topics or exemplary speakers you'd like to hear from, please contact the ILR Coordinator.
We look forward to your suggestions and participation, either as a class participant or on one of our Curriculum Committees. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and participation in ILR.



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2025 ILR Board of Directors

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2025 ILR Curriculum Committee

Chair	Rick Gold
Humanities Committee Chair	Richard MacMaster
	Rick Gold
Science Committee Chair	Jane Brockmann

Committee Members:

Joe Berkow, Laura Berns, Dale Campbell, Sheila Dickison, Claire Germain, Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, Diane Haines, Roy Hunt, Pushpa Kalra, Bob Palmer, Ken Rand, Phyllis Saarinen, Ellen Siegel, Bob Virnstein, Roy Weiner, Dave Wilson, & Walter Wynn