

Winona State University Retiree Center

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



<http://www.winona.edu/retiree/senioruni.asp>

For further program information, please call 507.457.5565

WHAT IS SENIOR UNIVERSITY?

Senior University WSU is a program of the Winona State University Retiree Center. Senior University is a peer-led set of short courses taught by professor emeriti, WSU faculty and topic experts to provide intellectual and cultural stimulation and growth, thus providing opportunities for lifelong learning and leadership, combined with the fellowship of peers sharing a common quest for continued growth. These are non-credit classes, held one day per week during a 4-6 week term with no tests and no grades.

Senior U is open to retirees and adult learners in the community.

If a Senior University course has to be cancelled, you will receive a full refund. Please see the full cancellation policy along with the course registration link and instructions on [page 11](#) of this booklet.

SENIOR UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: Jim Bromeland, Rill Reuter, Jim Reynolds, Richard Shields

Retiree Center Director, Jessica Kauphusman
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Senior University Classes

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Spring Birding - Spring 2013

Physics Experiments that Changed History

Instructor: Richard Shields

Day: Thursday

Time: 2:30-4:00 p.m.

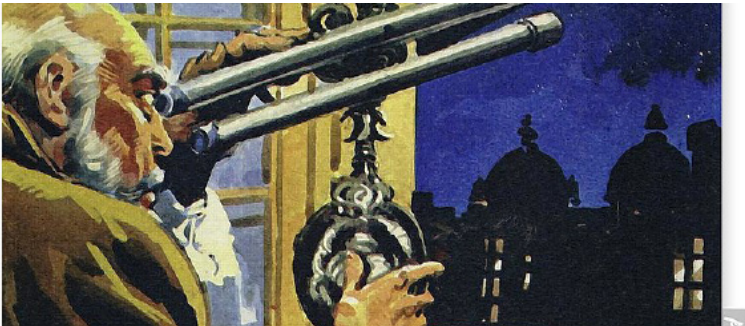
Sessions: January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15

Course Fee: \$40.00

Room: Pasteur Hall, Room 329

Physics experiments can have a large effect on society and its history. This course will trace back events to a point of a single experiment that shifted the paradigm. Physics has its keystone experiment just like Ecology has its keystone species. The ancient Greeks measured the circumference of earth by measuring the shadow of a stick stuck in the ground. That simple experiment led to a clash between science and religion. Galileo, under house arrest, did a simple experiment and discovered the scientific method. Isaac Newton performed light experiments in his home while the plague ravaged London. His observation of light led to an understanding of quantum mechanics and how a transistor works. Becquerel's observations of light streaks on unexposed film led to the development of the atomic bomb. The measurement of the speed of light gave rise to the development of relativity and the discovery of the "Big Bang", black holes, and the accuracy of GPS.

Richard Shields taught physics at Winona State University for forty years and has taught several senior university classes. This course differs from his previous classes in that here he is focused on history and reflecting on the importance of certain experiments.



Forbidden Knowledge: A Historical Overview

Instructor: Emilio DeGrazia

Day: Tuesday

Time: 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Sessions: January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20

Course Fee: \$40.00

Room: Maxwell Hall 259

“Forbidden Knowledge” provides a survey of beliefs about knowledge not to be pursued. Examples from the Bible and Greek mythology will be examined, as will Medieval sorcerer/alchemy and various Faust figures from Marlowe to Goethe. The course will conclude with a reading of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and her poet husband’s work called “Prometheus Unbound.” These works will set the stage for discussions of contemporary science and subjects such as nuclear weaponry and artificial intelligence.

Emilio DeGrazia taught literature at WSU from 1969-2002, and in his last two decades focused a lot on ancient mythologies and the issues they pose for contemporary believers.



Jazz History I - 1915-1960: Louis Armstrong & Early Jazz to Miles Davis and Cool Jazz

Instructor: Rich MacDonald

Day: Monday

Time: 3:00-4:30 p.m.

**Sessions: February 26, (no class March 5), March 11, 18, 25,
April 1**

Course Fee: \$40.00

Format: hybrid (you may attend in person or via Zoom)

Room: Maxwell Hall 287

This course will feature the important music and musicians of the eras of jazz up to 1960, beginning with Ragtime and Dixieland (1915-1920's), the Swing Era (1930-1940's), Be-Bop (1940's and beyond), and Cool (1950's). The final class period will focus on the important recordings of 1959.

Even though Rich MacDonald performs in a variety of musical settings, he considers himself primarily a jazz musician. At the heart of this music is improvisation, which has been a centerpiece of his musical and pedagogical endeavors for the past 50 years. He has taught Jazz History to WSU students for several years, and he always enjoys the interaction that it fosters – in particular, the social implications of its history from its rather inauspicious beginnings, through the Civil Rights Era, and to its place in our culture today.



Retirement Investing with Confidence & Success

Instructor: Rob Wolf

Day: Monday

Time: 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Sessions: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6

Course Fee: \$40.00

Room: Maxwell Hall 257

This course will provide a high level overview of financial planning for retirement. The course will include a discussion of: 1) how much money you need and how much you need to save; 2) what types of accounts you should use to save for retirement and why; 3) a description of asset classes (equity, debt, and etc) and their key characteristics; 4) how to structure a retirement portfolio; and 5) how to distribute savings, spending plans, savings account boundary conditions, and other financial issues.

Dr. Robert Wolf received his Ph.D. in Finance from Michigan State University and his M.A. in Economics from The Ohio State University. He has 25 years of university teaching experience at WSU and UWL. He has served on the University of Wisconsin System 403b Committee and taught Advanced Financial Planning at UWL for five years. He developed a course on Fund Investing for MBA and has presented numerous seminars on retirement planning, educational savings, and related issues.



Spring Birding

Instructor: Julie McCormick & Dedrick Benz

Day: Friday

Time: 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Sessions: Bi-Weekly; April 5, 19, May 3, 17

Course Fee: \$45.00

Room: Maxwell 259 (first hour of first class period only)

Experienced bird watcher/naturalist, Julie McCormick, and Dedrick Benz will share their vast knowledge and experience about birds and the hobby of birding during this spring class. Join us as we go out into the field to enjoy the arrival of spring. We live in the Mississippi flyway where thousands of birds flyover each spring. In April, we will see the waterfowl migration, and watch as different songbirds arrive throughout the spring, until our summer breeding birds show up and start looking for nesting sites. We will focus our time on being out in the field watching birds. We are open to input from the participants and able to adapt the course to explore local areas of interest.

Note: Most of the birding areas are on level ground, and our walking pace is slow. We will use our knowledge of where local hot spots are to determine the location each session. Meeting at a central spot and then carpooling to birding location. Guide's will email participants a few days in advance. Please, only registered class participants on the field trips, since the class size is limited. Thank you.

Julie McCormick has been watching birds and participating in bird counts for 23 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Art from UW: Platteville, raised whooping crane chicks when an intern at the International Crane Foundation, and has worked and volunteered at Whitewater State Park from 2001-2014. Her in-depth knowledge, skills with birding-by-sight-and-sound, and enthusiasm for bird watching knows no bounds!

Dedrick Benz has spent much of his free time birding his yard, the state, the country, or the world, depending on what his time and wallet have allowed. He has called the upper Mississippi River Valley home for all of this century, but as of late has spent many weekends bringing his eyes and ears around Minnesota working on his Minnesota county lists. He has performed bird surveys in local bottomland forests, guided for local trips as well as bird festivals in Grand Marais and Detroit Lakes, and has served on the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee.



Senior U Lite: Winona's History & Interesting Architecture

Instructor: Mark Peterson

Day: Thursday

Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Sessions: May 2, 9

Course Fee: \$25.00

**Room: May 2nd class period will be held in Maxwell 158
May 9th class will be a bus tour of Winona**

The course will meet twice. The first class will focus on the history of Winona beginning with Native Americans, early settlement, the logging industry, and the political climate up to the present. The second class period will be a bus tour of the built environment focusing on the unique and historical architecture of the city.

Mark Peterson was born in Mankato, MN. He graduated from Mankato State University with undergraduate degrees in History and Geography and received his Masters in History from Portland State University, in Portland, Oregon. He was the Museum Director for the Aurora Colony Historical Society in Aurora, Oregon, from 1978-1983. Mark was the Executive Director of the Winona County Historical Society from 1983 until his retirement in 2020. He was also Winona's Mayor from 2013 through 2020.



Shakespeare in Performance

Instructor: Jane Carducci

Day: Sunday

Time: Class will meet for 2 hours prior to performance and 1 hour afterwards:

-Class will meet from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

-Performance at 3:00 p.m.

-Class will meet for a 1-hour discussion after the performance

Sessions: To Be Determined (depends on GRSF schedule)

Course Fee: To Be Determined (depends on GRSF ticket pricing)

Room: To Be Determined

This class is offered in conjunction with the Great River Shakespeare Festival (GRSF) during July, and will take a performance approach. To that end, GRSF actors and directors will meet with the class to discuss the plays; the instructor will list relevant films that are available to watch (optional) on reserve at the WSU Library or via streaming. The plays should be read before class meetings, and students' full preparation beforehand will assure an active and productive classroom experience.

Jane Carducci earned her B.A. in English from Colorado College. She couldn't decide what to do with this degree, so she took some time off and, on a lark, moved to Lake Tahoe. Much to her parents' dismay, she ended up dealing cards in northern Nevada for seven years. Realizing that this was a dead end, she returned to the University of Nevada, Reno and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in English, specializing in the English Renaissance (specifically Shakespeare) with minors in linguistics and poetry. She has taught various Shakespeare classes at Winona State University for 29 years and published articles about Shakespeare in *Shakespeare and Higher Education*, *Cahiers Elisabethains*, *Language and Literature*, and *Literature and Psychology*.



SENIOR UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024

Registration for courses is primarily done online with a credit card. If you don't have access to a computer or would prefer to pay by check, please stop in at the Retiree Center, and we can assist you.

Start your online registration here:

https://mnsu.rschoolday.com/public/getclass/category_id/219/program_id/37

Watch your email for a message confirming your registration and providing additional details about the class or classes for which you have registered. If you do not receive a confirmation email, or if you have any questions or need assistance, contact us weekdays during regular business hours at:

WSU Retiree Center

227 W. Wabasha

Winona, MN 55987

retiree@winona.edu

507.457.5565

[All checks are made payable to "WSU Retiree Center"](#)

SENIOR UNIVERSITY CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

If a class must be canceled due to insufficient enrollment, inclement weather, or emergency circumstances, you will be notified as soon as possible and receive a full refund.

You may withdraw from a class and receive a full refund if we receive your withdrawal and refund request in writing, via email, mail or in person, at least five full business days before the first class date. Please note: if you pay by check, you will need to complete a W9 form to receive a refund by check from Winona State University. Credit Card payments will be refunded within 3-5 business days.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN CLASS!



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