

Winona State University Retiree Center

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



<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 10](#) 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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Reading the Woods - Fall 2012

The Modern Supreme Court and the Constitution

Instructor: Matt Bosworth

Day: Wednesdays

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

Sessions: January 29, February 5, 12, 19

Course Fee: \$40.00

Room: Maxwell Hall, Room 287

The U.S. Supreme Court has certainly made a lot of news recently; its last Term dealing with issues such as Presidential power, gun control, abortion, and federal agency powers was highly consequential for constitutional interpretation going forward. This course will examine the immediate prior and current Term of the Court beginning in October 2024, in which the Court will be examining issues of gender-affirming care for minors, election law, Internet free speech, and environmental law, among other topics. Enrollees will gain a greater understanding of the legal and political forces that will likely shape the Court's resolution of the controversies before them.

Matthew H. Bosworth, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Public Administration, and Ethnic Studies, came to Winona State in 1997. Originally hailing from Stillwater, OK, he graduated with a B. A. from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD in 1991. He then received an M. A. (1992) and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997. Most of his courses at WSU examine the intersection between law and politics, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Judicial Process and Politics, Constitutional Politics, and the First Amendment.



What Are We Made Of?: A Physicist's Perspective

Instructor: Andy Ferstl

Day: Thursdays

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

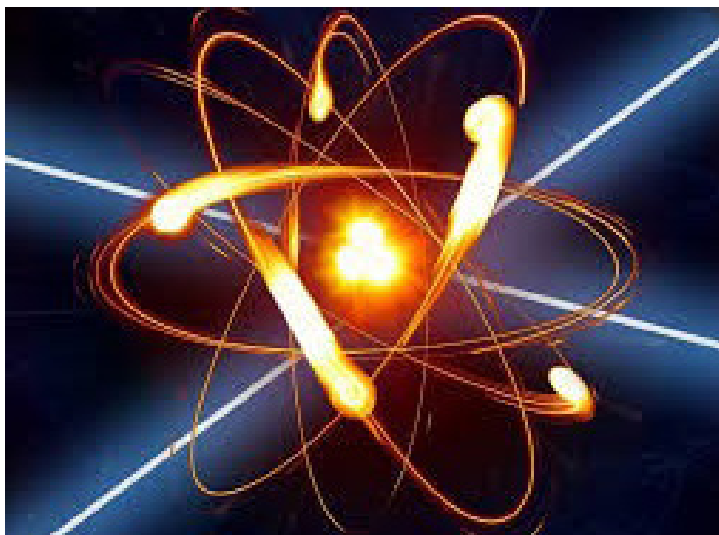
Sessions: January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27

Course Fee: \$40.00

Room: Pasteur 133 & Science Lab Center 132

“The Universe is made of stories, not of atoms” is a quote attributed to Muriel Rukeyser, a poet. This is most likely an allusion to the popular idea that everything is made of atoms. But is it? In our sessions, we will explore the current scientific consensus on what the universe is made of and how it came to be.

Andy Ferstl earned his Ph.D. in physics in 2000 with an emphasis in the interdisciplinary work of cosmology and particle physics. This included topics such as the Big Bang, Dark Matter, Dark Energy, Relativity, and Supersymmetry. He has taught physics classes at Winona State from the introductory level to senior level courses.



A Brief History of Jazz: America's Music - 1960-Present

Instructor: Rich MacDonald

Day: Mondays

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

Sessions: February 24, March 3, 17, 24, 31 (no class March 10 due to spring break)

Course Fee: \$40.00

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

Room: Somsen Hall, Room 331

The course will be designed to feature the important music and musicians of the most recent era's of jazz beginning in the early 1960's: Hard Bop (1960's), Avant-Garde (1960's to current), Jazz/Rock Fusion (1970's to current), Smooth Jazz and it's derivatives (1980's to current), Modern Latin Jazz (1960's to current), Jazz Vocalists (1960's to current), New Trends in Big Band Jazz (1990 to current), Contemporary Jazz Musicians who are influencing the genre (2000 to current).

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.



History of the American Revolution

Instructor: Greg Schmidt

Day: Wednesdays

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

Sessions: March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

Course Fee: \$40.00

Room: Maxwell Hall 287

Covering the period 1763-1788, the course will examine the origins and causes of the Revolution, its conduct and character, and its outcome in the U. S. Constitution of 1787. The course will focus on a few key documents, including the Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution of 1787.

Dr. Greg Schmidt (Ph.D. History, University of Illinois, 1980) taught History courses at WSU for 34 years, retiring in 2019. He taught an upper-division course on the American Revolution every third semester.



Frank Capra, "Capricorn," and Social Conscience: Five Representative Comedies from the 1930s and 1940s

Instructor: David Robinson

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Sessions: April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27

Course Fee: \$40.00

Room: Somsen Harriet Johnson Auditorium (2nd floor)

This course will look at five comic films of the 1930s and 40s to see how director Frank Capra used them to make social commentary about his times. It will consider the current relevance of these films, now nearly a century old, to our own lives and times. Discussion will focus on Capra's use of classic comedic forms to speak to the audiences of the Depression and World War II, as well as those of today.

David Robinson is a Professor Emeritus at Winona State. He taught in the English department from 1971-2008, teaching composition, literature, and film at all levels from Freshman to graduate. He gave and published papers in both English and film studies. In addition, he was for many years the film reviewer for the Winona Post, writing for a popular audience in the Winona area. This is David's third Senior University course, and he noted that the first two were among the most enjoyable courses he has ever taught.

The films that will be watched in class are *It Happened One Night* (1934), *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), *You Can't Take it With You* (1938), and *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946).



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 2025

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://mnsctu.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 at:

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Winona, MN 55987

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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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