



Institute for Learning in Retirement

Oak Hammock at the University of Florida
Serving the Gainesville Community and Beyond

Fall 2026 Kick Off September 13th 2:30 pm Oak Room

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.

Message from the Chair

Fall ILR Is Here!

Get Ready to Learn, Explore, and Be Inspired!

Ready to be engaged, challenged, and stimulated by new ideas?

Our curriculum committees have assembled an exciting collection of courses, with something for every curious mind. I hope you're like me and can hardly wait to open the Bulletin, see what's new, and register for your favorites!

★ Something Special This Fall!

The ILR Showcase

Friday, September 25 • 1:30 p.m.

Oak Room, Oak Hammock at the University of Florida

FREE • Open to anyone 55+ • In person or Zoom

*Russia's War in Ukraine:

Consequences Beyond the Battlefield*

Professor Bryon Moraski, University of Florida

What is really happening **behind the headlines**? How is the war reshaping Russia, Ukraine, Europe—and American attitudes toward the conflict?

Professor Moraski will bring his scholarly expertise to this timely topic, providing insights and perspectives you won't get from the daily headlines.

Come ready to learn, think, and see this complicated conflict in a whole new way.

Bring a Friend!

The Showcase is a perfect opportunity to introduce someone to ILR and experience the excitement of **lifelong learning**.

Want to join us on Zoom?

Email ilr@oakhammock.org for the link.

I hope to see you at our **Fall Kickoff on September 13!**

Henri Logan, PhD

ILR Board Chair

Fall 2026 Class Catalog

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Cultivate Your Mind!

Term goes from September 28 - November 6

Institute for Learning in Retirement Fall Kickoff

Fall Kickoff

- Sunday, September 13th, 2026 at 2:30 pm, in the Oak Room.
To attend in person, please RSVP at 352-548-1009 or ilr@oakhammock.org.
This event will also be available via **Zoom**.



The poster features a warm orange and blue color scheme with autumn leaves. At the top, the ILR logo is displayed in three colored squares (blue, orange, blue). Below it, the text 'Institute for Learning in Retirement' is written in a bold, dark blue font. A smaller line of text identifies the location as 'Oak Hammock at the University of Florida' and its mission as 'Serving the Gainesville Community and Beyond'. The main title 'Fall 2026 KICK OFF' is prominently displayed in a mix of script and bold sans-serif fonts. A circular callout on the left highlights the variety of courses available. On the right, event details are listed with corresponding icons: a calendar for the date, a clock for the time, a location pin for the room, and a video camera for the Zoom option. The bottom section is a dark blue banner with a white 'Please' and large orange 'RSVP!' text, followed by contact information in a white box and a final message in script font flanked by leaves.

ILR
Institute for Learning
in Retirement

Oak Hammock at the University of Florida
Serving the Gainesville Community and Beyond

Fall 2026
KICK OFF

What a lineup
of courses we
have for you in
this Fall 2026
Learning in
Retirement (ILR)
term.

 Sunday, September 13th, 2026

 2:30 pm

 Oak Room

 Event will also be available via Zoom
please email ilr@oakhammock.org
for Zoom link information

Please **RSVP!**

 352-548-1009 |  ilr@oakhammock.org

We look forward to seeing you!

Institute for Learning in Retirement Special Showcase

Special ILR Guest Speaker: Bryon Moraski— Russia's War in Ukraine

- Friday, September 25th, 2026 at 1:30 pm, in the Oak Room.
To attend in person, please RSVP at 352-548-1009 or ilr@oakhammock.org.
This event will also be available via **Zoom**.



**Institute for Learning
in Retirement**

Oak Hammock at the University of Florida
Serving the Gainesville Community and Beyond

Special Showcase

Russia's War in Ukraine: Consequences Beyond the Battlefield

special ILR guest speaker

Bryon Moraski



September 25th, 2026



1:30 PM



Oak Room (In Person or Zoom)



Please contact ilr@oakhammock.org for Zoom link details.



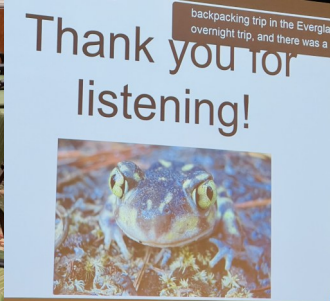
**No Fee or Registration Required
for This Presentation**



Lifelong Learning • Camaraderie • Inspiration



ILR In Action

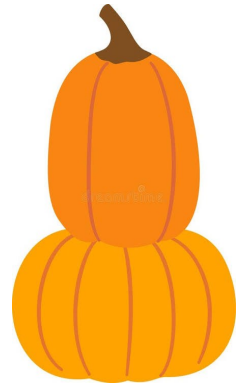




Fall “One”ders

Mondays at 10:00 am in the Oak Room

(In-Person or Zoom)



September 28 **Media Ethics—A Look Backward from a Former Journalist**
Speaker: **Linda E. Maurice, Executive Director of the Jewish Foundation of North Central Florida**
Facilitator: **Rick Gold**

This talk will address the importance of understanding media ethics and media literacy. Such knowledge enables us to critique how the media can affect bias, propaganda, and our responsibility to become active, not passive, recipients of information.

October 5 **Cryptocurrency**
Speaker: **Joe Berkow**
Facilitator: **Pushpa Kalra**



The purpose of this talk is to help you understand cryptocurrency:

What it is and how it developed. How it works. Its role in legal and illegal business. Bitcoin and the blockchain database on which cryptocurrencies are based.

October 12 **Assessing Motor Function Remotely in Patients with Parkinson’s disease: Pilot study Using a Cell Phone and AI**
Speaker: **Diego L. Guarin, PhD Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology, Affiliate Faculty, Fixel Institute, UF**
Facilitator: **Pushpa Kalra**

Home based assessment could reveal how neurological disorders truly affect movement. Wearables and videos are possible solutions, but they fall short in accuracy, cost and privacy. We discuss here potential alternatives for home monitoring using a cell phone and AI.

October 19 **Sacagawea: The Most Famous-and Unknown Woman in American History**
Speaker: **Barbara Oberlander, PhD, Professor Emerita, Santa Fe College**
Facilitator: **Rick Gold**



Sacagawea is a legendary figure. There are more statues of her than any other woman. The National Park Service said she “would change the course of history.” But what do we really know about her background and contributions to the Lewis and Clark expedition? Why is there so much controversy?



October 26 **A Taste of Burgundy: Pinot Noir, Dijon Mustard, Cassis, and the Medieval Hospices de Beaune**
Speaker: **Claire M. Germain, Professor of Law Emerita, UF & Cornell**
Facilitator: **Rick Gold**

Discover why France’s Burgundy region became famous for wine, mustard, and cassis. Learn how the 15th-century Hospices de Beaune, a hospital for the poor, turned fine wine into philanthropy through prestigious annual wine auctions held by Sotheby’s.

November 2 **Spanish Conquistadors in Southeast North America**
Speaker: **Dr. Charlie Cobb, Curator of Historical Archaeology, Florida Museum**
Facilitator: **Phyllis Saarinen**

In the 1500s several Spaniards led explorations of southeastern North America as far north as the Chesapeake Bay and west of the Mississippi River. Dr. Cobb will discuss recent findings of Hernando de Soto’s 1539-1542 ambitious expedition and its long-term consequences.





Marine Biology in Florida

Mondays at 1:30 pm in the Oak Room

Facilitators: Tom Pearson and Jane Brockmann



(In-Person or Zoom)

Florida has the longest coastline of any state in continental US (8,436 miles), so it is not surprising that there is a lot of marine research being conducted in this state. This series of lectures will present a sampling of near-shore, marine biological research being conducted at UF.

September 28 From Sea Stars to Sea Turtles: Discover the Science Happening at the Whitney Lab

Speaker: Veronica Hinman, Professor of Biology and Director, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, UF

The ocean is filled with animals that can do extraordinary things—from regrowing body parts to surviving in extreme environments. Discover how scientists at the Whitney Laboratory study these remarkable creatures to answer some of biology's biggest questions.



October 5 Restoring Native Clam Communities for Improved Water Quality and Economic Resilience in the Indian River Lagoon

Speaker: Todd Osborne, Professor of Soil, Water and Ecosystem System Sciences & Whitney Lab, UF

This presentation will cover Dr. Osborne's current studies in ecosystem restoration of shellfish and seagrasses in the Indian River Lagoon and the effects of soil phosphorus pollution in central Florida. The research includes carbon dynamics in mangrove and saltmarsh ecosystems, phosphorus remediation, and climate change.

October 12 Coastal Ecosystems and Restoration Effects of Land-use Patterns on Estuaries

Speaker: Andrew Altieri, Associate Director, Center for Coastal Solutions, Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences, UF

Dr. Altieri will discuss his research on the ecology of human-dominated coastal ecosystems. Studies of this productive, but ever-changing, zone have provided insight into the dynamics of ecosystems including their resilience, productivity, and the output of ecosystem services.



October 19 10 Years of Saving Sea Turtles at the UF Whitney Laboratory

Speaker: Catherine Eastman, Sea Turtle Program Manager, Whitney Marine Lab, UF

This presentation will cover the basic biology and conservation of Florida's sea turtles. It will also cover 10 years of cases and research at the Sea Turtle Hospital at Whitney Laboratory.

October 26 Red Tide, Food Webs, and Fisheries: Management Challenges and Solutions in an Ever-Changing Environment

Speaker: David Chagaris, Research Associate Professor, IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station

Fishery species are connected to one another through complex food webs and strongly influenced by the environment around them. However, traditional management approaches have focused on individual species. This talk will introduce ecosystem-based management and why it matters.

November 2 Seagrass Species Respond Differently to Environmental Change: Implications for Restoration

Speaker: Laura K. Reynolds, Associate Professor, Soil, Water and Ecosystem Sciences, UF

Seagrasses do a lot of good things! They protect fish. They prevent erosion. They remove nutrients from the water. So, when we lose them, our environment suffers. While restoring these plants and their function is hard, genetic and species diversity can increase seagrass restoration success.



Global Challenges in Africa and Latin America

Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Oak Room



(In-Person or Zoom)

This course will address contemporary issues challenging and giving hope to Africa and Latin America and creating policy dilemmas for these regions as well as the US and Europe. It is sponsored by the University of Florida Centers for African Studies and Latin American Studies.

September 29 Opportunities and Economic Challenges for Cuba: Focus on Agricultural Recovery in the Midst of Economic Turmoil

Speaker: William Messina Jr., Extension, Research and Development Coordinator, Department of Food and Resource Economics, UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Facilitator: Rick Gold

Cuba is facing enormous economic, social, and political challenges. This includes the collapse of its once vaunted agricultural sector which has led to a food crisis. What are the prospects for Cuban agriculture in the context of broader problems?

October 6 A Perfect Storm in the World's Poorest Region: Security, Democracy and Climate Change in Africa's Sahel

Speaker: Leonardo A Villalón, Director, UF Center for Latin American Studies, Professor of African Politics, and Coordinator, Sahel Research Group

Facilitator: Agnes Leslie

Since the invasion of Libya and the fall of Moammar Qaddafi triggered Mali's collapse, the Sahel has become a major global concern. Now considered a hub of global terrorism, the region faces intertwined security, governance, and environmental crises. This presentation examines their causes and impacts, explores implications for Africa and global geopolitics, and outlines possible future scenarios.

October 13 Navigating Fortress Europe: African Youth Migration and the Human Costs of Border Enforcement

Speaker: Abdoulaye Kane, Associate Professor, Anthropology and UF Center for African Studies

Facilitator: Rick Gold

This presentation examines the migration of African youth to Europe, focusing on how restrictive border policies have reshaped migration routes and increased migrants' vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and rights abuses. It highlights the tension between border security and human rights and calls for more humane, rights-based migration policies.

October 20 No Class Scheduled

October 27 Africa's Democratic Challenges and Opportunities: Focus on Southern Africa

Speaker: Agnes Leslie, Master Lecturer, UF Center for African Studies

Facilitator: Rick Gold

African countries have experienced fluctuations in their democratic experiences. The presentation will focus on Southern African countries and analyze what is working and the challenges some countries are facing.

November 3 The Power of Connections to Promote Amazon Conservation

Speaker: Vanessa Luna Celino, Postdoctoral Associate, UF Center for Latin American Studies

Facilitator: Rick Gold

How can stronger connections foster more effective Amazon conservation? This presentation shares lessons from the Power of Connections project, which brings together diverse actors across the Amazon to exchange knowledge, strengthen networks, and explore collaborative approaches to shared conservation challenges.

Special Note!

The ILR Fall Term runs from September 28 - November 6 (beginning and ending date may vary depending on availability of speakers and course material).

All ILR classes are conducted in person, with the majority also accessible via Zoom. Classes not available on Zoom will be clearly indicated in red on the class page.

German Language Tuesdays in Conference Room A Instructor: Barbara Johnston

(In-Person or Zoom)

Intermediate German:

Tuesdays 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Students should have a basic knowledge of German. The emphasis is on reading to improve vocabulary and learning basic grammar concepts.

Advanced German:

Tuesdays 1:30 pm-2:30 pm

Students should have a competent knowledge of German. The emphasis is on reading to improve vocabulary and conversation.

**Sprechen Sie
Deutsch?**

Ja!



Contested Terrains: Debates in Contemporary European Politics

Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Oak Room

Facilitator: Rick Gold



September 29 ***La Terreur: Violence and the Politics of Fear in Modern Europe***

Speaker: **Emrah Sahin, Full Instructional Professor, UF Center for European Studies; Affiliate Faculty, Department of History**

From the guillotines of the French Revolution to today's headlines, fear has shaped European politics for over two centuries. Dr. Sahin traces that history to illuminate current debates over terrorism, security, and belonging.

October 20 **Urban Planning in the Post-Socialist City: A Case Study of Prague**

Speaker: **Conor O'Dwyer, Professor of Political Science and European Studies, UF**

Until 2026, Prague's urban planning continued policy practices from before 1989. Were the difficulties in reforming the system the result of communist-era legacies of political clientelism and weak civil society? Dr. O'Dwyer reflects on the larger question of legacies of authoritarian rule on urban politics.

November 10 **The Future of the European Project**

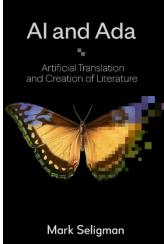
Speaker: **Dr. Amie Kreppel, Jean Monnet Chair and the Founding Director of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at UF**

This lecture will discuss different perspectives on what the future of the European integration project should be, with current ideas ranging from a fully federal European Union (EU) to an increasingly decentralized and differentiated Europe of sovereign states. The discussion will include a comparison to the original goals of the EU's founders and thoughts on likely future scenarios.

Fall “One”ders 2

Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Oak Room

(In-Person or Zoom)



September 30 AI and Ada: Can a Machine Create Art?

Speaker: Mark Seligman

Facilitator: Ellen Siegel

Can artificial intelligence translate Nabokov—or someday write literature with genuine beauty, insight and emotional depth? In *AI and Ada*, computational linguist and longtime AI researcher Mark Seligman takes readers on an accessible, lively exploration of what today’s astonishing machines can—and cannot—do. Along the way, he tackles some wonderfully human questions: What is intelligence? What is language? And could a machine ever truly understand us?

October 7 “Suffs: The Musical,” a film to accompany the ILR course, “Global Feminisms”

Facilitator: Carmen Diana Deere

“Suffs” is a musical about women suffragists and the historical events leading up to the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution that gave women the right to vote.

October 14 One World: Photographs from a Shared Planet

Speaker: Carol McCusker, PhD

Facilitator: Laura Berns

Dr. McCusker, Curator of Photography at the Harn Museum, will discuss photographs from the Harn collection that are currently on display as part of the exhibit *One World*, with the themes of “Age and Innocence,” “Protecting and Renewing,” “Honor,” “Biomes,” and “Body and Soul.”



October 21 To Be Announced



October 28 Third- and Fourth-Wave Feminisms and Black Transnational Feminism (part of ILR course, “Global Feminisms”)

Speaker: OG Murrell, Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, UF

Facilitator: Carmen Diana Deere

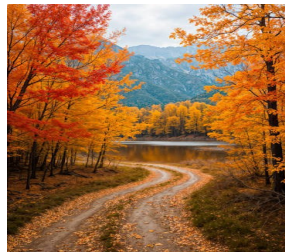
New generations of women have redefined feminism and given greater attention to inclusivity and intersectionality. This session focuses on the demands and political struggles of Black women across the African diaspora.

November 4 Structural Poverty and Mass Incarceration

Speaker: Lindsay Kallman, Executive Director, Community Spring

Facilitator: Rick Gold

Poverty and mass incarceration are deeply linked, creating a cycle that traps families for generations. This lecture examines how systemic injustice fuels this cycle and highlights community-led work disrupting it through unconditional cash, policy reform, and community building.



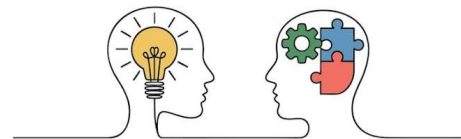
5 Questions from the History of Western Science

Wednesdays 1:30 pm in the Oak Room

Speaker: Dr. Fred Gregory, Professor Emeritus Department of History, UF

Facilitator: Jane Brockmann

(In-Person or Zoom)



September 30 No Class Scheduled

October 7 “Are We Still Enchanted?”

Attempts to understand nature began in the West with the ancient Babylonians, who turned their attention to the movements of celestial bodies. Their explanations of how nature worked were mythopoeic; i.e., they accounted for the motions of the heavens as the direct actions of gods. The Greeks, in contrast, replaced the appeal to gods with an enchantment of their own - that the heavens could be explained rationally known as the “Ionian Enchantment.” This assumption that nature can be explained rationally has ruled science to our own time.

October 14 “What is the Role of Belief in Science”

The flourishing of Greek philosophy and its transmission to the Latin West influenced much of Western thought, including Christian theology. It did not, however, always sit well with some. Tertullian, an early Christian writer from Carthage, famously asked “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” His answer was “Not much.” But many years later Anselm of Canterbury had a different take, declaring “I believe in order that I may understand.” Here is born a fundamental issue that has echoed down through the history of science.

October 21 “Is There Really a Scientific Method?”

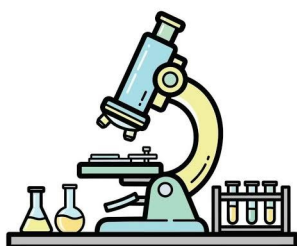
A common understanding of scientific method begins with careful observation of an unexplained phenomenon, the posing of an hypothesis to account for it, making a prediction based on the hypothesis, and, depending on the outcome of testing, confirming or rejecting the hypothesis. But where do hypotheses come from and how determinative are they of the outcome? We’ll look at the role and status of hypotheses in the 18th century as natural philosophers struggled to get a handle on some bewildering observations.

October 28 “When, Exactly, Did We Cease Being at the Center of the Universe?”

Already in ancient times there were those who doubted that our world was the only one to have come into existence. A debate about the possibility of other worlds began when the Bishop of Paris issued a series of condemnations of theologians who appeared to sympathize too much with Aristotle. In so doing the church ironically opened the door to the possibility that God could have created other worlds.

November 4 “Do We Have to Change What We Mean by Understanding?”

Over the course of the 19th century natural science made great strides as it attempted to keep pace with a rapidly modernizing industrial society. Many 20th century discoveries proved so challenging that they appeared to forsake the old Ionian Enchantment on which scientists had relied throughout the history of science. This forced scientists to question the very meaning of understanding itself.

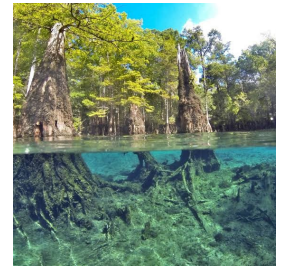


Springs in Focus: Science, History, and Conservation of Florida's Springs



Thursdays 10:00 am in the Oak Room
Facilitators: Ellen Siegel and Bob Palmer

(In-Person or Zoom)



Join the UF Thompson Earth Systems Institute and the UF Water Institute for a series on Florida's Springs. Join researchers, practitioners, and community leaders as they share the latest science and insights on Florida's springs, from water flow and conservation to history, policy, and public engagement. This series was requested by the springs group of the 2025 Community Action Projects for the Environment (CAPE) ILR course.

October 1 Florida Springs Over Time: Poetry, Memory, and Digital Storytelling

Speaker: **Gabriele Belletti, Assistant Professor UF Dept. Languages, Literatures, & Cultures**
Sadie Hundemer, Assistant Professor, UF Agricultural Education and Communication

We explore how Florida's springs have changed over time and how communities perceive, remember, and sometimes forget those changes. Drawing on the SHINE project, we discuss how poetry, digital storytelling, and public engagement can help people reflect on environmental transformation and imagine new forms of care for Florida's waters.

October 8 Empowering the UF Community to Steward Florida's Freshwater Resources

Speaker: **Sadie Mills, Interim Director, UF Thompson Earth Systems Institute (TESI)**

More than 93,000 students, faculty, and staff make up the community at UF each year, and many of these community members learn about, visit, and recreate in the springs for the first time while at UF. This talk will highlight TESI's Swamp for the Springs campaign, which was created to educate the UF community about Florida's springs and ways to protect springs resources.

October 15 The Economics of Florida's Water: Managing Our Most Precious Resource

Speaker: **Kotryna Klizentyte, Assistant Professor, UF Forest Resources & Conservation**

Dr. Klizentyte will discuss how economic factors influence resource management, with a focus on Florida's Upper Floridan Aquifer. She will examine how communities and government agencies can work together to make informed decisions about managing and protecting our water resources.

October 22 A Deep Dive into the Floridan: Quantifying Long-Term Flow Declines and Controls on Water Quality in Florida Springs

Speaker: **Lindsey Cromwell, PhD Student, UF Ecohydrology Lab**

Florida springs are among the state's most iconic natural resources, valued for their ecological importance, aesthetic beauty, and recreation. Yet declining water clarity, habitat degradation, and reduced spring flows have raised growing concern about their long-term health. Here we examine multi-decadal changes in spring flow and the factors that control spring water quality.

October 29 Ocala's Growing Pains: Population, Policy, and the Race to Protect the Aquifer

Speaker: **Matthew Stanley, Water Conservation, City of Ocala**

This talk explores how rapid growth in the region is reshaping the demand on Florida's water resources, and how a city works to keep pace without depleting the aquifer. Drawing on the City of Ocala's water system, we will discuss how conservation policy, infrastructure planning, and public engagement can help residents understand what's at stake, and imagine what stewardship looks like.

November 5 Minimum Flows and Levels for the Suwannee River and its Springs

Speaker: **Paul Donsky, PhD Student, UF Ecohydrology Lab**

Each water body needs a certain amount of water to function properly and retain its value to humans and wildlife. The state of Florida establishes Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for important water bodies to protect the environmental value of the ecosystem. Here we explain the scientific process of determining MFLs for the iconic Suwannee River and its freshwater springs.

Facilitator: Carmen Diana Deere

This course focuses on organized women's demands for rights in different periods and world regions, highlighting their networks, strategies and policy successes. The interaction of feminist activism at the local, national and international levels drove progress towards greater gender equality-- legally and in practice. It has been uneven, nonetheless, across and within countries, differences exacerbated by recent anti-feminist backlash.

Growth in local/state and national women's organizations demanding access to education, property and suffrage in the United States and Europe led to the founding of the International Council of Women (1888), international women's conferences, and the spread of feminist ideas.

The first women's groups in Latin America demanding rights date from the early 20th century. Collaboration between US and Latin American feminists led to the establishment of the Inter-American Commission of Women (1930). Most countries enacted women's suffrage by mid-century.

Demands for gender equality in public and private spheres led to the 1975 First UN Conference on Women in Mexico City and the 1979 UN Convention (CEDAW). Latin American governments, funders, non-governmental organizations, academia and feminist activists addressed demands differently.

By the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women, women's organizations had also expanded in Africa. The Beijing Program of Action aimed to empower women by increasing their access to resources, enabling their voice and eliminating gender-based violence, with mixed results.

This session will feature a panel discussion of the recent UNWomen-UNRISD report (2025), *Understanding Backlash against Gender Equality: Evidence, Trends and Policy Responses*.



Round Table Discussion in the Algonquin Genre

Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Multipurpose Room

Moderators: Rick Gold, Dick Suttor



Enrollment Limit 30

(In-Person or Zoom)



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.

Oak Hammock Chamber Players

Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the Acorn Room

Facilitators: Cheryl Poe and Wendy Visscher

Director: Gary Langford



(In-Person Only)



The Oak Hammock Chamber Players are instrumental musicians who enjoy playing music with others. We welcome people who play or who have once played orchestral instruments. There are no auditions and some of our musicians have not played in over 50 years before joining the group. If you do not have an instrument, we can recommend local places where you might rent one. We can also recommend private music teachers for those who would like to improve their technique. Music is typically provided in digital format. You would have to bring your own music stand to each session.

Most of our selections come from the classical repertoire, but we also play traditional pieces, show tunes, and seasonal music. We learn not only about music, but also about musical technique and both the discipline and fun of making music with others. We normally give two concerts a year at Oak Hammock.

We are very fortunate to have retired UF music professor, band director, and jazz music expert Gary Langford as our music director. We are members of the New Horizons International Music Association, which is a support network for adult musicians. For more information, go to www.newhorizonsmusic.org. If you plan to register for this course for the first time, please contact Cheryl Poe (cheryltonipoe@gmail.com or 352-316-0886) or Wendy Wisscher (wavisscher@gmail.com) to discuss your musical experience.

Friday Afternoon at the Opera

Fridays 1:00-3:00 pm in the Acorn Room

Facilitator: Diane Haines



(In-Person Only)

Please note that “A Guide to Opera” and synopses for the operas will be provided via email to all registered participants. PLEASE DOWNLOAD. Reading these materials before class will enhance your experience and enjoyment.

The ILR Opera Class has been presented at Oak Hammock since Fall Term 2007. The operas presented are from the Metropolitan Opera via On Demand. The Operas or Documentaries are presented with examination of the opera, time period, composer, and cast members. Class members may be seasoned in opera or new to the genre. All are welcome.

October 2 Farinelli — Il Castrato

Presenter: Terry Lee

Some believe that the most incredible human voices ever heard belonged to the castrati, boy singers who were deprived of their manhood in order to preserve their high vocal range. In the 18th century Farinelli was the most famous opera singer in the world. This 1994 film is based on the life of this castrato. Content Advisory: Farinelli addresses adult themes and contains adult language.

October 9 The Male Operatic Voice

Presenter: Professor Ron Burrichter and Dr. Brenda Smith

Traditionally, the male voice has been thought of as either Bass, Baritone, or Tenor. Today, the Countertenors are being recognized with commanding parts from previous centuries and the current one. Professors Burrichter and Smith will educate and entertain us with a view toward and examples of the male voice and some backstage stories.

October 16 Week 1— Rodelinda, Handel

October 23 Week 2— Rodelinda, Handel (continued)

Presenter: Terry Lee

In one of Handel's greatest dramas, Renee Fleming is a woman faced with an impossible dilemma. Believing that her husband Bertando, sung by countertenor Andreas Scholl, is dead, she either has to marry the despised Grimoaldo or see him murder her son. But Bertando is alive and eventually reclaims both throne and wife. Baroque authority Harry Bickel conducts.

October 30 Week 1— Akhnaten, Glass

November 6 Week 2— Akhnaten, Glass (continued)*

Presenter: Diane Haines

One of the biggest hits of the 2019-20 season, Akhnaten focuses on a revolutionary figure from world history. Leading countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo headlines as the Egyptian pharaoh who attempted to radically alter his society. The Met stage is filled with breathtaking visuals for this performance. Karen Kamensek conducts the hypnotic score.

***Time Change for November 6: 12:30-2:30 pm**



How to Register!

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:

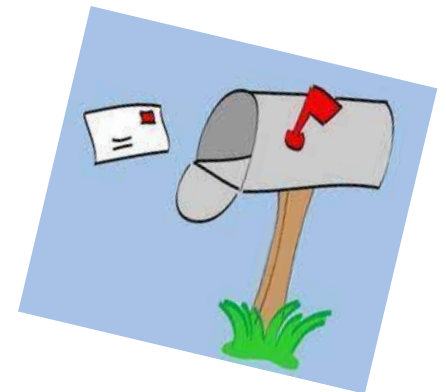
<https://www.oakhammock.org/ilr/register-for-a-class/>

- 2026 Membership Dues, **for those who have not already paid**, are \$20 (for those who are not residents of Oak Hammock or Canopy Club members).
- If you have a credit voucher, please do not pay online. Attach your credit voucher to your registration with your check.
- Everyone who registers must pay for their classes, including Oak Hammock residents, Canopy Club members, Village residents, Gainesville & surrounding areas, and out-of-state residents.

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
Attention: Auriyan Johnson



SEE YOU SOON—IN CLASS OR ON ZOOM!

Please call Auriyan at 352-548-1009 if you have any questions OR
email ILR@oakhammock.org

Registration in Person

Participant 1:

Last Name		First Name		Phone (with area code)	
Street Address		Apt Number	City	State	Zip Code
Email Address (Preferred)					

Participant 2:

Last Name		First Name		Phone (with area code)	
Email Address (Preferred)					

Participant 1 Selection:

☐ Fall "One"ders	☐ Fall "One"ders 2
☐ Marine Biology	☐ History of Western Science
☐ Global Challenges	☐ Springs in Focus
☐ Intermediate German	☐ Round Table Discussion
☐ Advanced German	☐ OH Chamber Players
☐ Contemp. European Politics	☐ Global Feminisms
☐	☐ Opera

Participant 2 Selection:

☐ Fall "One"ders	☐ Fall "One"ders 2
☐ Marine Biology	☐ History of Western Science
☐ Global Challenges	☐ Springs in Focus
☐ Intermediate German	☐ Round Table Discussion
☐ Advanced German	☐ OH Chamber Players
☐ Contemp. European Politics	☐ Global Feminisms
☐	☐ Opera

Please check only one:

☐ OH Current Resident ☐ The Village at Gainesville Resident
☐ OH Canopy Member ☐ Gainesville Community
☐ Out of State

Please check only one:

☐ OH Current Resident ☐ The Village at Gainesville Resident
☐ OH Canopy Member ☐ Gainesville Community
☐ Out of State

2026 Annual Membership Dues (\$20) (January 1-December 31) for those who have not already paid

- *Annual Dues for Oak Hammock Residents and Canopy members are paid for by OH.
- 1 course only:** \$10.00 per person, **2 courses:** \$20.00 per person, **3 or more courses:** \$30.00 per person

\$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____
2026 Dues Class Fees Total Due

PAYMENT INFORMATION: ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Credit Card

Make checks payable to:

Mail to:

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

(Registering online? Simply click anywhere on this page to complete your registration with a credit card.)

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



ILR maintains a **YouTube channel** : **The ILR Learning Hut** where previously recorded class sessions may be viewed.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Click the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@ilrlearninghut> or enter the URL.
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 “Playlist” from the main tabs. 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 Auriyan.

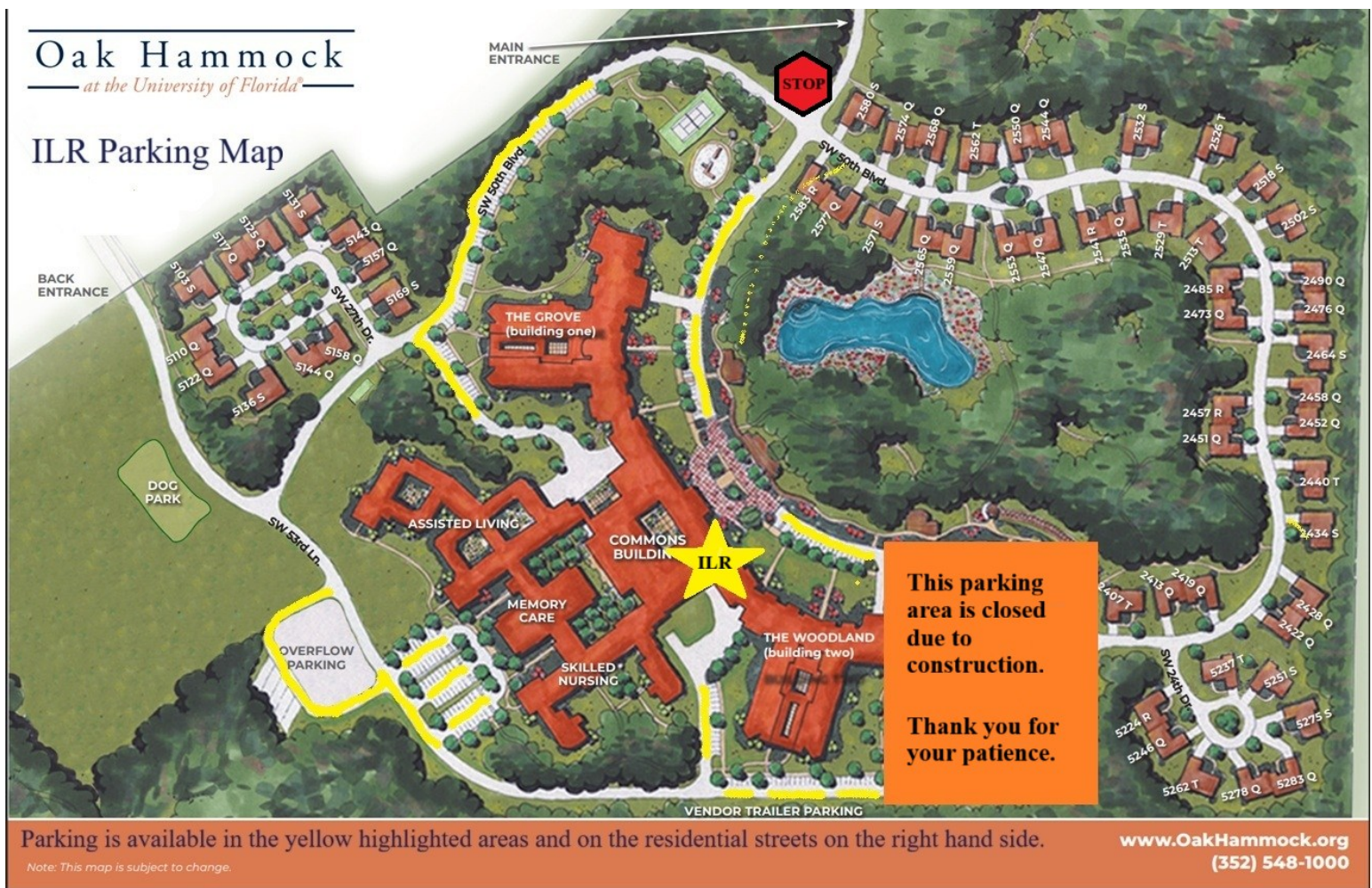
ILR is dedicated to continuing its quality programs. If you have ideas for the Curriculum Committee on topics or exemplary speakers you'd like to hear from, please contact Curriculum Chair Dave Wilson at Dwilson4070@gmail.com.

We look forward to your suggestions and participation, either as a class participant or on one of our Curriculum Subcommittees. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and participation in ILR.

Location and Parking

Oak Hammock is located on SW 25th Terr. off SW Williston Road between SW 34th St. and SW 23rd St. GPS often directs people to the back gate where you will not be able to enter; please come in the front entrance where there is a sign for Oak Hammock and where there is a stoplight on Williston Road. Oak Hammock is a gated community; please tell the security person at the gate that you are an ILR member. After entering you will drive down a winding road through the woods that ends at a 4-way stop. Go straight ahead or follow signs that will guide you to additional parking.

After you are parked, there are signs inside of the buildings to guide you to the ILR rooms.





Institute for Learning in Retirement

Oak Hammock at the University of Florida
Serving the Gainesville Community and Beyond

Email us at: ILR@OakHammock.org

2026 ILR Board of Directors

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Science Subcommittee Chair	Jane Brockmann
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<https://www.youtube.com/@ilrlearninghut>