

UCALL

UNION COLLEGE
ACADEMY FOR
LIFELONG LEARNING

Our UCALL mission is to provide opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation and social interaction for adults through courses, excursions and special events.

FALL 2019



TUESDAYS

OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

India: Important Player on the World Stage, With Great Strengths and Big Problems

Joan Ham will beguile us with an introduction to India as a unique country—historically, aesthetically, politically, economically, full of wonders and beauty. Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics **Jeeten Krishna Giri** will discuss India in the aftermath of the Economic Reforms of 1991, struggling with poverty and old problems in modern ways. Associate Professor of Anthropology **Jeffrey Witsoe** will look at the political issues and problems of developing a democracy in an old culture. Assistant Professor of Visual Arts **Sheri Lullo** will fascinate us with images of the body in Indian Art. Professor of Economics **Mehmet Fuat Sener** will place modern India in the fierce economic competition among big players such as China, Russia, and the United States.

COORDINATOR: JOAN HAM

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Innovations and Inventors That Changed the World

Bruce Maston, MD, JD, will tell an interesting story about how dinosaur bones were viewed in the past, and how innovative thinking changed that view. **Bob Saltzman** will talk about flamboyant, eccentric, enigmatic, and almost supernaturally gifted Nikola Tesla, who some called genius and others madman and who may have been the world's greatest inventor. **Don Gavin** will discuss three inventions that had significant impacts on national economies: the cotton gin, gunpowder and sailing ships with a specific purpose. **Ahmed Elasser**, PhD, will explore the life and legacy of one of the most outstanding GE Engineers, Charles Steinmetz, known as "The Forger of Thunderbolts." He was not only "The Chief of Chief Engineers"—or as his colleagues nicknamed him, "The Supreme Court"—but also a humanitarian, a professor, an engaged citizen who cared deeply about his community, and a family man. **Greg Sauer** will wrap up the course by discussing the enablers of steam power and its societal impacts. He will end by noting that we are on the cusp of experiencing three General Purpose Technologies: Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Nanotech. The impact of these in the next 15 years will change our society in fundamental ways.

COORDINATOR: JIM BURNS

12:30 to 2:30 pm

"Thank you so much for creating such high quality programs and special events for our senior community."

—Nancy Tobiessen

WEDNESDAYS

OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

The Native Peoples of Upstate New York

Native Americans have played major roles in the history of this country that are often undervalued in present day history teachings. This course will examine elements of tribal societies and the interactions between Native Americans, European immigrants, and State and Federal governments, with primary focus on the native populations of upstate New York. **Richard Rose**, Professor of Practice, University at Albany and retired from the NYS Education Department, will present two sessions on issues experienced by Native American tribes, including both present-day (tribal recognition, governance, economic concerns, reservations, land ownership) and historical (treaties, sovereignty, self-determination, genocide, discrimination) matters. **Andrea Foroughi**, Associate Professor of History, will discuss the roles of the Iroquois in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution, including the alliances formed with both the British and colonial militaries. **Christina Rieth**, State Archaeologist, New York State Museum, will present archaeological and anthropological studies of the Mohawk, including their interactions with early immigrant groups to the Capital Region. The course will close with an exploration of the important roles of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) women in tribal governance and society.

COORDINATORS: LINDA DOYLE AND JENNY OVEREYNDER

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Just Opera

Opera's reputation of death-bound plots is only partially deserved. Some operas are serious without mortal finish, while others are downright funny. In this course, **Josef Schmee**, the Kenneth B. Sharpe Professor of Management Emeritus, will review the gamut of outcomes, operas by great composers with sharp-witted texts, most with non-lethal ends. Mozart's *Così fan tutte* is a sharp, comic, bittersweet, deeply human opera. Beethoven thought *Così* was amoral, yet Da Ponte's text seems quite apropos by today's standards. Donizetti wrote magnificent comic operas; *Lucia di Lammermoor* is not one of them. Based on a novel by Sir Walter Scott, poor Lucy winds up mad (while singing) and dead (still singing). Lucia is what was expected from opera at the time of its creation. Wagner's early opera *Lohengrin*, like Lucia, involves family discord, and also some magic, all laced with ethereal music. Wagner, of course wrote his own text, while his great southern "competitor," Verdi, relied on Arrigo Boito to write a text based on Shakespeare's character Falstaff to give us his masterwork. *Falstaff* may not be his most popular opera, but it is arguably his finest. And then there is Strauss with his *Der Rosenkavalier*. He was criticized that this opera was retrogressive, that he abandoned his earlier modern approaches to music. Oh, but what music! with Hofmannsthal's text overflowing with human understanding.

COORDINATOR: JIM COMLY

1:30 to 3:30 pm

THURSDAYS

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Intergenerational Economics: Are We Eating Our Young?

Brad Lewis, Professor of Economics, will debunk various apocalyptic economic forecasts: Social Security will go broke; Medicare will destroy the budget; we have a ridiculously large unfunded liability (one "expert" puts it at \$210 trillion). He will outline the insights of Modern Money Theory: that our analogy of the federal government with households, states, or private businesses is simply inaccurate. Our national debt is not a problem, but in many ways a blessing. He will explore the circular flow of incomes and our demographic picture to point out that the prospects for the younger workforce should be excellent, as long as we educate them, invest in infrastructure, and continue to provide retirees with an income stream. We are already seeing the consequences of a smaller cohort of younger workers and it is giving them a better chance at good jobs, not the opposite. How might we wreck these good forecasts? Professor Lewis will provide more reasonable numbers on what challenges we do face, and how the United States compares with a number of other developed countries that have much more severe demographic issues. What is the world picture? He will wrap up by summarizing the above topics and two other major issues: the clustering of vital cities vs. places that have been "left behind"—a major problem politically—and what might happen with developments in Artificial Intelligence.

COORDINATOR: JIM BURNS

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Popular Culture and New Visions

How are language, art, video, music, and literature informing our modern world? **Anastasia Pease**, Senior Lecturer in Russian and in English, will discuss how the beauty industry influences our choices and often perpetuates harmful social divisions. **Junko Ueno**, Associate Professor of Japanese, will explore how the art forms of manga (comic books) and anime (animation) foreground such cultural themes as the relationship between humans and technology. **Chad Orzel**, R. Gordon Gould Associate Professor of Physics, will lecture on the ways science fiction engages with science, with an emphasis on the field of physics. Actor and entertainer **Jermaine Wells** will explore Hip Hop, from its humble beginnings to its position as a global phenomenon that has crossed all cultures and genres. In the final lecture, Jermaine Wells will speak about the changing roles of women and people of color in the world of film.

COORDINATOR: PAUL O'BRIEN

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.



UCALL MEMBERSHIP AND COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

FALL 2019

Mail completed form and all payments to: UCALL, Union College, 807 Union Street, Schenectady, NY 12308

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Are you an Alumnus/Alumna of Union College? Yes Graduation Year _____

Are you a new or returning member? New Returning Year Joined _____

If you are a new member, how did you learn about UCALL? _____

FEES: Annual membership fee (September-August) is \$75.00 per person. Tuition is \$30.00 per course.

Please make your check payable to UCALL.

COURSE SELECTION: In the spaces provided, indicate the name of the course(s) for which you would like to register in order of preference. You may register and pay for your first two course selections. You will have the option of registering and paying for additional courses in September, based on availability. Please wait to pay for your additional course selections until you are registered for them. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Some classes fill quickly, so we urge you to register early.

Please return your registration form no later than September 2, 2019.

Course Name

1	_____	\$30	_____
2	_____	\$30	_____
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Membership Fee (September-August)		\$75	_____
Grand Total (annual membership fee plus tuition)		\$	_____

Friends of UCALL: If you would like to make a contribution to Friends of UCALL, please send your donation in a separate check payable to Union College with FRIENDS of UCALL in the memo line.

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Established in 1988 on the historic Union campus, Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning (UCALL) is a membership-based program for adults who enjoy learning. Courses cover a wide range of topics and are presented by volunteers from the UCALL membership, Union faculty and community leaders. All courses are non-credit with no exams or pre-requisites. Classes are held for five two-hour weekly sessions in the fall and spring. Parking is available at College Park Hall on lower Nott Street with bus service to campus. For special needs, contact Valerie D'Amario at (518) 388-6072.

UCALL is open to all who want to learn with their peers, regardless of formal education. Benefits of UCALL membership include: participation in courses and special events; newsletter subscription; tuition waiver to audit one Union College undergraduate course (based on availability); borrowing privileges at Schaffer Library; and access to Union events including films, exhibits, concerts and lectures.

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Thanks to all who voluntarily contribute to the Friends of UCALL Fund, we are able to continue in our mission and ensure that existing and future members will enjoy quality educational programs for years to come.

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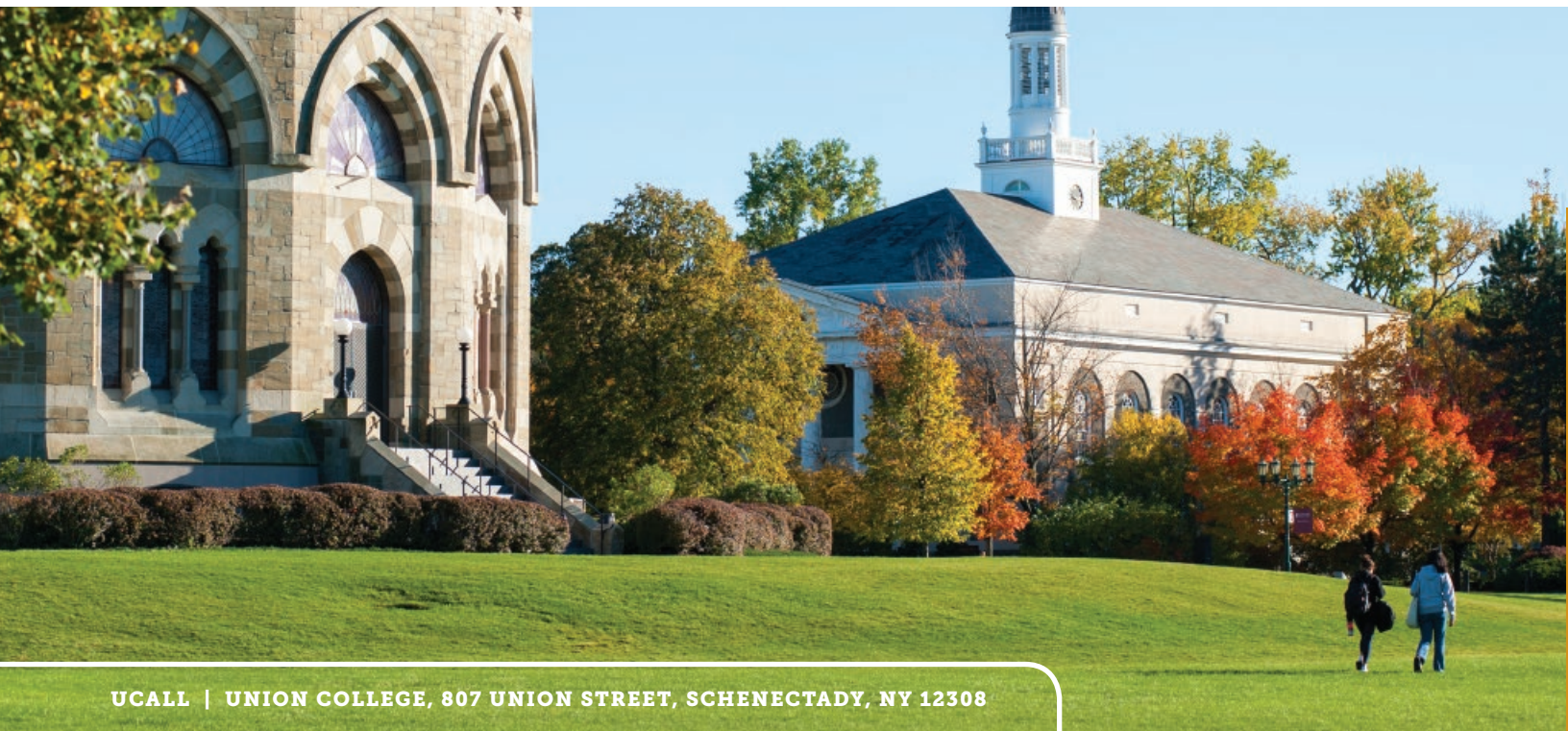
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"The UCALL experience has been an eye opener for me. My studies at university were very directed and only now am I enjoying a 'liberal arts' education, thanks to UCALL!"

—Janet Vinyard



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STAFF
Valerie D'Amario, *Director*

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Tuesdays & Thursdays
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(and by appointment)

Look for UCALL Special Events & Excursions to be announced in upcoming newsletters