Our UCALL mission is to provide opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation and social interaction for adults through courses, excursions and special events.
Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning (UCALL) is a welcoming and inclusive membership organization for adults who enjoy learning. UCALL offers two semesters of courses (fall and spring) plus a 4-week winter session. Our 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.

Join us on Zoom in January (and into February) for nine UCALL programs to enrich and brighten those winter afternoons! Programs will be held online Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Most of the sessions will be recorded for later viewing.

UCALL membership is not required to register for the Winter Program. The fee of $45 (UCALL member) and $90 (non-member) covers all nine presentations.

TUESDAYS

A Short History of Jazz

JAN. 11
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Tim Olsen, professor of music and director of the Union College Jazz Ensemble, will examine some of the most important trends and personalities in this uniquely American art form.

Westinghouse and Edison, 1886

JAN. 18
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Dr. George Wise puts into perspective how the rivalry of inventors Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse in the last quarter of the 19th century helped shape the electric power system still used worldwide today. It was indeed a “battle of the currents,” from which alternating electric current (AC) emerged triumphant over its rival, direct current (DC). That battle, however, has been misrepresented in most accounts. Specifically, it has typically been presented as the collision of two men at the peak of their powers, when it was in fact two men passing each other going in opposite directions. More important in understanding what happened in the “current battle” are events that took place in 1886, some of them in Schenectady.

Popular Television Shows of the ’50s and ’60s

JAN. 25
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Paul O’Brien will present “Popular Television Shows of the ’50s and ’60s: What made them such hits?” We will look at a few of the favorites: “I Love Lucy,” “Gunsmoke,” “The Adventures of Superman,” “The Honeymooners,” “Ozzie and Harriet,” and “Dragnet.”

Making a Play Out of Chaos

FEB. 1
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Professor Randy Wyatt, chair of Union College Department of Theater and Dance, will present “Elements of performance that must come together to make a piece of theater.” He will focus on a current project.

Psychology: Conspiracy Theories

FEB. 8
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Joshua Hart, Union College psychology professor, will present his research on conspiracy theory believers, which shows that they are relatively untrustworthy, ideologically eccentric, concerned about personal safety, and prone to perceiving ill intent in actions and meaning in absurdity. His work represents the first attempt to test the independent contributions of these factors to conspiratorial thinking. Two studies found that schizotypy, dangerous-world beliefs and receptivity to absurdity predict endorsement of generic conspiracy beliefs. The studies found no effects of situational threats, though it remains to be seen whether real-world threats might move some people to seek refuge in conspiratorial thinking.

THURSDAYS

A Study of Etudes

JAN. 13
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Frank Strauss relates that many great composers identified difficult performance areas and wrote etudes, studies and practice pieces that addressed these. Etudes have been composed for almost all instruments, not just the piano; many etudes are still used for practice, and some are still found in the concert repertoire. This program will explore the meaning of etude, and will show videos of special performances of some etudes for diverse instruments.

The Future of Work

JAN. 27
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Chris White covers the latest developments in technology and how they are impacting, and will impact, both the workforce and employers. Hear about the trends and the ways in which our educational systems, government, workers and businesses will need to adapt to be successful in the future.

Cultivating a Culture of Diversity and Inclusion for All

FEB. 3
1 – 2:30 P.M.

Dr. Patrick Jean-Pierre will speak about how to cultivate a culture of inclusion that drives to ensure that the life experiences, perspectives and values of all stakeholders are embraced.

WINTER PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Bob Briggs
Phyllis Budka, Co-chair
Art Clayman
Mike Collins, Co-chair
Stella Collins
Jim Cosley
Valerie D’Amario, Director
Peggy Kling
Cathy Lewis
Bonnie McCullough
Kathy Palmieri
Elizabeth Paul
Jeff Rothman
Bob Saltzman

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UCALL Pop-Up Lectures and Special Events will be announced in upcoming e-newsletters.
Winter Registration:
Register and pay for the Winter Program online at www.union.edu/ucall.
For more information, or to register over the phone, please call (518) 388-6072.

WINTER PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Bob Briggs, Art Clayman, Mike Collins, Stella Collins, Jim Cosily, Valarie D’Amario, Professor Cliff Brown will conduct an “Ask the Expert” program dedicated to questions and comments from the audience. Participants are encouraged to ask about or discuss any political science topic.

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FEB. 3
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Dr. Patrick Jean-Pierre will speak about how to cultivate a culture of inclusion that drives to ensure that the life experiences, perspectives and values of all stakeholders are embraced.

Political Science: Ask the Expert
JAN. 20
1 – 2:30 P.M.
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The Future of Work
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Chris White covers the latest developments in technology and how they are impacting, and will impact, both the workforce and employers. Hear about the trends and the ways in which our educational systems, government, workers and businesses will need to adapt to be successful in the future.

UCALL Union College, 807 Union Street, Schenectady, NY 12308
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E: ucall@union.edu
www.union.edu/UCALL
STAFF
Valerie D’Amario, Director
Debbie Catharine, Administrative Assistant
OFFICE HOURS
Tuesdays & Thursdays
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (and by appointment)

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