

**Shared Learning Association Catalog**  
**For the Spring 2023 Mini-Term—May 1 to June 30, 2023**  
**Deadline to register is April 21, 2023**  
**Our website: [sharedlearning.us](https://sharedlearning.us)**

### Overview

*Shared Learning* is an unaffiliated, non-profit educational association for adults who consider themselves to be life-long learners. Since 1979, we have offered non-credit courses during Fall, Winter and Spring terms to the general public. Courses are led by volunteer *Shared Learning* members, **who are eager to connect, engage, share, and learn with others about topics of mutual interest.** With a \$70 annual membership fee, paid in the Fall, *Shared Learning* members can enroll in an unlimited number of courses all year without further cost. For those who do not join *Shared Learning* until the start of the winter term, the fee per person is \$40—again, permitting new members to take an unlimited number of courses. All weekly classes will be held either **on-site** in classrooms of our host, the Church of Reconciliation (110 North Elliott Road, Chapel Hill), via **Zoom**, or in a **hybrid** format that allows both in-person and remote participation.

**NOTES:** \*Enrollment in our Spring mini-term courses (May and June) is offered free of charge to the public at large. \*We welcome members and moderators of Peer Learning.

### Our Spring 2023 COVID Policy

All moderators and class members who attend *Shared Learning* **on-site classes or events** must be **fully vaccinated and have the most recently approved COVID booster**, according to the current CDC Guidelines available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/>. People who have tested positive for COVID should notify their course moderator, refrain from attending on-site *Shared Learning* activities for five days, and follow the CDC Guidelines before attending on-site classes and other on-site *Shared Learning* activities.

### Enrollment

**There is no charge for Spring registration.** Consult the schedule and course description pages to make your course enrollment selection(s). You have two options for registration: **1) On paper:** use the registration form on pages 6 and 7 of this catalog, also posted on our website, [sharedlearning.us](https://sharedlearning.us). Indicate your course choices as explained on the registration pages and send them by US mail to Doug Shier, 182 Fearington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

**2) Online:** anyone may use [this link](#) to register. The online form allows one person at a time to register. For questions about a course, email [moderators@sharedlearning.us](mailto:moderators@sharedlearning.us). Be sure to write the moderator's name in the subject line and your name, email address, and question in the text area. To receive a paper copy of this catalog, please contact Asta at [astacrowe@gmail.com](mailto:astacrowe@gmail.com).

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(O) indicates *On-Site* classes at the Church of Reconciliation,  
(Z) indicates *Zoom* meetings, and (H) denotes *Hybrid* classes.

<b>Mondays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Mondays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Views on the News</b> (Z) Doug Shier and Steve Bravy	<b>American Core Values: Egalitarian or Meritocratic?</b> (Z) 1 or 2 sessions, May 1 and possibly May 8 Alan Ziegler
	<b>Friends Around the Kitchen Table</b> (O) 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Starts on May 8 Kris Yensen and Scott Parent
	<b>TED Talks</b> (O) 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Starts on May 8 Scott Parent and Kris Yensen

<b>Tuesdays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Ten Commandments in Eight Weeks: An Iconoclastic Survey</b> (H) Jonathan Gerard	<b>Another Classic Read: <i>Anna Karenina</i>, Part III</b> (O) Nancy Goudreau
	<b>How Colors Affect Us</b> (Z) May 2 – June 6 Anna S. Klein

<b>Wednesdays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Sharing Written Personal Histories</b> (Z) Mary Freedman	<b>Philosophy and Physics</b> (Z) Rob Fowler
	<b>Chess, Anyone?</b> (O) 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Joe Swain and Carol Downs
	<b>Chess, It's Your Move</b> (O) 1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Carol Downs and Joe Swain

<b>Thursdays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</b>
<b>History Simplified</b> (Z) 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. 4 sessions, May 4 – 25 R. Greg Hesterberg	<b>Enjoy Poetry, Review its Standard Features, and Write Poetic Lines</b> (O) Nancy Goudreau
	<b>Comparative Film Analysis</b> 5 sessions, May 4 – June 1 (O) Runs until 1:30 p.m. Dan Brenner

<b>Fridays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Deutsche Konversationsgruppe</b> (Z) Andrew O'Brien	<b>First Friday Shared Book Club</b> (Z) One Meeting, May 5 Terry Lucas

## Monday

### 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. VIEWS ON THE NEWS

Zoom

Co-Moderators: **Doug Shier** and **Steve Bravy**. Our open round table format allows for the respectful discussion of events at the worldwide, national, state, and local levels. During each meeting, volunteers present current topics for the exchange of ideas in order for us to share and learn. The conversations and information exchanges are respectfully managed by Doug and Steve, using pre-established general operation guidelines to ensure that meeting etiquette and decorum are followed.

**NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 20 members. \*New students are welcome.

### 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. AMERICAN CORE VALUES: EGALITARIAN OR MERITOCRATIC?

Zoom

One or two sessions, May 1 and possibly May 8

Moderator: **Alan Ziegler**. We live in a society with great gaps in wealth, social status, and power, yet the Declaration of Independence says that “all men are created equal.” If that is really true, should our society recognize equality as an entitlement and strive to close those gaps? Alternatively, is it part of the “DNA of America” to reward people for their ability and permit them to pass the fruits of those rewards down to their families and progeny? What does history say about how egalitarianism or meritocracy really work in practice here and abroad and is there a way to reconcile the two ideas? This mini-course of 90 minutes will start with a background presentation (½ hour) and then be followed by discussion of questions that are sent in advance of the session to those who signed up or questions and topics raised in class. Meetings that further examine the topic might continue.

### 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. FRIENDS AROUND THE KITCHEN TABLE First Meeting: May 8

On-Site

Guest Moderators from Peer Learning: **Kris Yensen** and **Scott Parent**. We don’t share food and drink at our Kitchen Table; we share stories. Each week, we choose a theme and share stories of success and failure, love and loss, wonder, surprise, occasional tears and frequent laughter. Come share your pet peeves, your favorite memories, best adventures, and hard-won wisdom.

**NOTE:** Limited to the first 15 who enroll.

### 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. TED TALKS First Meeting: May 8

On-Site

Guest Moderators from Peer Learning: **Scott Parent** and **Kris Yensen**. Ever listen to a *TED Talk* and wished you could talk about its topic with someone? Or, have you heard about, but never seen a *TED Talk*? In response to either, you will enjoy seeing, hearing, and discussing several *TED Talks* per on-site meeting—these are short, pithy presentations by “experts” on all sorts of subjects, usually surprising, sometimes funny, and frequently inspiring. Kris and Scott will select one or two *TED Talks* per meeting that represent subjects of interest to participants.

**NOTE:** Limited to the first 15 who enroll.

## Tuesday

### 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. TEN COMMANDMENTS IN EIGHT WEEKS: AN ICONOCLASTIC SURVEY

Hybrid

Moderator: **Jonathan Gerard**. The Ten Commandments are among the most revered and least understood codes of law. This mini-course will explore some of the enduring issues that emerge from analyzing them. It will examine their different versions and consider what authority they ought to have over our lives. Class participants will also be invited to add an eleventh commandment—or to replace an existing commandment with one of their own.

### 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ANOTHER CLASSIC READ: ANNA KARENINA, Part III

On-Site

Moderator: **Nancy Goudreau**. We have already read and discussed one third of this engrossing, 19th century novel by Leo Tolstoy. Its romantic plot centers on an extra-marital affair, plus betrayal, faith, marriage, Imperial Russian society, rural vs. Moscow/St. Petersburg life and especially the rapid Russian transitions into liberal societal reforms—all themes voiced and exemplified by the characters. We will continue our immersion, taking time to relish 40 pages per week with oral reading, interpretive discussions and the review of references. Our text: *Anna Karenina*, by Leo Tolstoy, Modern Library Publishers, 2000. Translators are Leonard J. Kent and Nina Berberova.

**NOTES:** \*Class is limited to the first 15 to enroll. \*We’ll start our review in Part 5, Chapter 1. \*New people who have already read up to Part 4, Chapter 23 are welcome to join us.

## Tuesday (continued)

### 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. HOW COLORS AFFECT US Six sessions, May 2 – June 6

Zoom

Moderator: **Anna S. Klein**. We live in a colorful world (thank God!). We know that certain colors are warm, some calm us down, while others spring us to action. But the science of colors reveals much more. Did you know that green may spark our creativity, that some colors may augment our appetite and “make us” eat more? Players in competitive sports, such as football or hockey, may be penalized much more often (with statistical significance!) just because of the color of their jersey! Anna invites you to explore the secrets hidden in colors and their mysterious influence on our minds by watching and commenting on six fascinating Great Courses lectures with William Lidwell, a professor of Psychology who teaches Industrial Design, and is an author of the best-selling design guide, *Universal Principles of Design*. The lectures will be enriched by participants’ own experience with colors and a side look into the world of art, including our favorite colorful paintings.

## Wednesday

### 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. SHARING WRITTEN PERSONAL HISTORIES

Zoom

Moderator: **Mary Freedman**. Only we can document our personal experiences, reactions, and perceptions during dynamic times. We will support each other’s individual efforts to record in writing what we have lived through and encourage our developing sense of accomplishments. Each participant will: write beforehand about episodes and decisions made in their lives; read aloud their writing; give attention to and appreciate the telling of the experiences and/or insights of others. We will also be able to share illustrations and photos online. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 20 participants. \*Participants new to this course are welcome. \*There will be no class the week of May 21.

### 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. PHILOSOPHY AND PHYSICS

Zoom

Moderator: **Rob Fowler**. What are the connections among Philosophy, Mathematics, and Physics? And how are they related to Reality? And is that Reality universal and objective, or is it all subjective and relative? In this course we will examine these questions, whether or not we have answers. We will base our class discussions on material from the Great Courses “The Great Questions of Philosophy and Physics,” supplemented by other materials that address issues of symmetry and invariance.

### 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CHESS, ANYONE?

On-Site

Co-Moderators: **Joe Swain and Carol Downs**. This course is designed especially for beginners who have never played chess or whose knowledge of the game of chess is in need of a refresher course on the basics of the game. The class will focus on board setup, movements of the individual pieces, point count, strategies and tactics, key chess terms, and the use of computer chess engines for solo or partner play. A list of materials will be provided. Each class will include time for interactive play by participants. The class will be held in Fellowship Hall on well-spaced tables.

**NOTES:** \*Participants will need to provide their own chess set. \*If you like, bring a bag lunch for 12:30 – 1:00.

### 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. CHESS, IT’S YOUR MOVE

On-Site

Co-Moderators: **Carol Downs and Joe Swain**. Well-spaced tables in Fellowship Hall will be provided for players who have experience playing the game of chess and are just looking for a partner to play with during this period of time. **NOTES:** \*Participants will need to bring their own chess set and a chess clock, if they want to use one. \* You are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

## Thursday

### 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. HISTORY SIMPLIFIED Four sessions, May 4 – May 25

Zoom

Moderator: **R. Greg Hesterberg**. Would you like to more simply understand history, plus the world we live in today? Dr. Martin Luther King once said, “We are not makers of history, we are made by history.” He was spot-on. So, how are we made by History? I think it’s through three simple elements or “drivers” which comprise the core of this course. First, we will take an in-depth look at ourselves—how we are set up and exhibit our primate-driven behavior. Then we look at the importance of geography, a discipline no longer even taught in schools nor given any thought. Geography matters. Finally, we’ll consider technology, both a driver and catalyst of the other elements and the world we inhabit. This course is also a bit of a yours truly’s lifetime of studying history. Now, in my later years, I have managed to condense human events into a simple set of axioms that you, too, can put into productive use... perhaps giving us a glimpse into the future. Come listen to my story and, more importantly, help me further hone and refine my understanding of it. I do look forward to your inputs and ideas and learning from you. And, from my moderating style, laughs along the way are guaranteed! **NOTE:** Class size is limited to 40.

## Thursday (continued)

### 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ENJOY POETRY, REVIEW ITS STANDARD FEATURES & WRITE POETIC LINES

On-Site

Moderator: **Nancy Goudreau**. Participation in this pro-active course will benefit your grasp and appreciation of written language and enhance your own sentence and/or paragraph composition, word choice and poetic efforts. During each class meeting, we'll savor our selection of poems from by-gone to modern eras. In addition to reading aloud and listening, we'll learn a bit about the lives of the poets and the standard features of poetry. With such inspiration, we'll indulge in a little poetic composition ourselves—participants will decide on using certain poetic elements in their own writing of text and poetic lines. No worries... a painless, gradual, shared process, based on class interest. For reference, we'll use ***A Poetry Handbook: A Prose Guide to Understanding and Writing Poetry***, by the Pulitzer Award winner Mary Oliver, 1994.

### 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. COMPARATIVE FILM ANALYSIS

On-site

Moderator: **Dan Brenner**. One way to enjoy a good film is to compare it to other films. Such analysis includes contrasting characters, directing styles, cinematography, acting, themes, plot development, etc. In the Spring term, we will view five films where music is a major theme. The films include: *The Last Waltz* (1978), *Blinded by The Light* (2019), *Mo' Better Blues* (1990), *The Harder They Come* (1972) and *Crossover Dreams* (1985). At the end of each film, there will be a group critique. Class meetings will take place on five consecutive Thursdays, starting May 4th and ending on June 1st. **NOTES:** \*All films will be presented with closed captions. \*Class meetings will go on until 1:30 p.m. in order to accommodate the longer running films and the discussion. \*Class is limited to 25.

## Friday

### 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. DEUTSCHE KONVERSATIONSGRUPPE

Zoom

Moderator: **Andrew O'Brien**. For those German speakers who wish to maintain their fluency, this course will provide you with information and cordial opportunities to converse in German. We'll refer to articles in German newspapers, magazines and select interesting topics about current German and American events. Each class meeting will be conducted entirely in German, but not include German grammar instructions. **NOTE:** German speakers new to this course are welcome.

### 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. FIRST FRIDAY SHARED BOOK CLUB One session: May 5

Zoom

Moderator: **Terry Lucas**. On March 31st, the 2023 Winter term participants have selected a title to read for the Spring term. Please check for the title in the Spring Mini-Term Catalog, posted on the Shared Learning website ([sharedlearning.us](https://sharedlearning.us)) in early April. Or, ask Terry for the title to read for the May meeting, by emailing [moderators@sharedlearning.us](mailto:moderators@sharedlearning.us). We'll host a friendly, vibrant gathering, certainly not intended to be a graduate degree analysis.

### Shared Learning Board of Directors

Alice Parsons.....	President, CCC, FC, Hospitality Co-Chair
Nancy Goudreau .....	Vice President, CCC Chair, LTP, Publicity
Marsha Back .....	Secretary, Hospitality Co-Chair
Ken Leto .....	Treasurer, FC, CCC, LTP Chair
Doug Shier.....	Registrar, LL
Rob Fowler .....	Website Manager, CCC, LTP
Barry Lentz .....	CCC, LL, LTP
Daniel Kiechle.....	Technology Coordinator, FC Chair, LTP
Anna Klein.....	Member Communication Coordinator, CCC
Asta Crowe .....	Publicity Chair
Meyer Liberman .....	LL Coordinator
Gary Sobel.....	DVD Collection Librarian

**NOTE:** CCC = Curricula & Catalog Committee; FC = Finance Committee;  
LL = Lindgren Lecture Committee, LTP = Long Term Planning Committee.

### Shared Learning Registration Form for the May – June 2023 Spring Mini-Term

**Deadline** for registration in Spring Mini-Term courses is April 21, 2023. Classes are held **on-site** at the Church of Reconciliation, 100 North Elliott Road, Chapel Hill, by **Zoom**, or in a **hybrid** format that allows participants to attend in person or by Zoom. Unless otherwise noted in the catalog, courses begin on May 1. To enroll in any course using the form below, write your initials to the left of the course choices. Couples should write both initials. See page 1 for more detailed registration options, including signing up online.

#### Course Choices for Spring 2023

Initials	Course Titles	Initials	Course Titles
	<b>Views on the News</b> Zoom, Monday, 9:15 a.m. 11		<b>Philosophy and Physics</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. 32
	<b>American Core Values: Egalitarian or Meritocratic?</b> Zoom, Monday, 11:15 a.m. (May 1 and maybe May 8) 12		<b>Chess, Anyone?</b> On-Site, Wednesday, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. 33
	<b>Friends Around the Kitchen Table</b> On-Site, Monday, 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 13		<b>Chess, It's Your Move</b> On-Site, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. 34
	<b>TED Talks</b> On-Site, Monday, 1:00 p.m – 2:30 p.m. 14		<b>History Simplified</b> Zoom, Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., May 4 – 25 41
	<b>Ten Commandments in Eight Weeks</b> Hybrid, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m. 21		<b>Enjoy Poetry and Review its Standard Features</b> On-Site, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. 42
	<b>Another Classic Read: <i>Anna Karenina</i>, Part III</b> On-Site, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. 22		<b>Comparative Film Analysis</b> On-Site, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 43
	<b>How Colors Affect Us</b> Zoom, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. (May 2 – June 6) 23		<b>Deutsche Konversationsgruppe</b> Zoom, Friday, 9:15 a.m. 51
	<b>Sharing Written Personal Histories</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 09:15 a.m. 31		<b>First Friday Shared Book Club</b> Zoom, Friday, May 5, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 52



### Member information for one or two people

Person 1

Person 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:**

Only fill in the information for email, phone, and address on the next 4 lines if it has changed or if a person is new to Shared Learning.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Land line phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we certify that at this date of registration, I am/we are  
fully vaccinated and have the most recently approved booster.  
*(required only for people who attend any courses or events in person)*

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your current membership affiliation(s):

☐ Shared Learning

☐ Shared Learning

☐ Peer Learning

☐ Peer Learning

☐ Neither

☐ Neither