



Modesto Institute for Continued Learning

EST 1986

*Spring
2025
Catalog*

Session A, 1/13 - 2/14/25

Session B, 2/18 - 3/21/25

Session C, 3/24 - 4/25/25

The **Modesto Institute for Continued Learning** is an organization for retired people who wish to continue to learn new things, visit new places, and build new friendships. The class subjects change all the time, depending on our members interests. We are part of the Community Education division of **Modesto Junior College**, but a college degree is NOT required, **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** We are men and women from ALL walks of life, please come join us!

CLASSES ARE HELD
IN THE **EL CAPITAN CENTER BUILDING**
LOCATED ON THE **WEST CAMPUS OF**
MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
DURING FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS
SUMMER No Mondays or Fridays

LUNCH BREAK
12:00 PM - 1: 00 PM
BRING YOUR LUNCH AND JOIN OUR COMMUNITY TABLE
ENJOY EATING AND SOCIALIZING WITH OTHER MEMBERS
**TIP: THE MJC FOOD COURT HAS SANDWICHES, SALADS,
HAMBURGERS, SNACKS, DRINKS AND MORE**
JUST A SHORT WALK AWAY

Register In-Person: January 8, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
Over the phone: (209) 575-6063 Cost: \$60.00
Online: mjc4life.org, search MICL
Link on our Website: micl-online.org

Weekly Update:

Details of each weekly class, the movie, trips, and all other activities can be found in the Weekly Update. This is **emailed each Friday**, with a **printed version** available in the classroom each **Monday**.

Session A: January 13, 2025 - February 14, 2025

MONDAY

Travels Around the World 10:00 am - 12:00 pm *1/20 MLK Day No Class

Coordinator: Betty Stewart

In this class we bring in MICL members and friends of members to tell us about their trips, near as well as far and wide. You can expect lots of great pictures, perhaps videos, and most of all, stories about the trips. In addition to the experience of virtually going along on these trips, you will learn how the trip was planned and other background information. For good reason, this course has consistently been the MICL class with the largest attendance. Come and see the world!

Triumph of Christianity 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm *1/20 MLK Day No Class

Coordinator: Jim Pack

In The Triumph of Christianity, Bart Ehrman, a master explainer of Christian history, texts, and traditions, shows how a religion whose first believers were twenty or so illiterate day laborers in a remote part of the empire became the official religion of Rome, converting some thirty million people in

just four centuries. The Triumph of Christianity combines deep knowledge and meticulous research in an eye-opening, immensely readable narrative that upends the way we think about the single most important cultural transformation our world has ever seen—one that revolutionized art, music, literature, philosophy, ethics, economics, and law.

“How did a small, provincial Jewish sect called Christianity convert the mighty pagan Roman Empire? Bart Ehrman answers this baffling question with the same wit, passion, and rigorous scholarship that have made him one of the most popular religion writers in the world today. The Triumph of Christianity is a marvelous book.”— Reza Aslan, NY Times bestselling author of “Zealot”

TUESDAY

History of India 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Jerry Jackman

After a full semester, our course is finally the CURRENT history of the independent nations/states of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Getting to the modern world hasn't been easy for these nations or their people. But South Asian nations survive as complex struggling democracies.

Professor Fisher will conclude with "South Asia into the 21st Century". The remaining time provides the opportunity to see the fresh faces of these societies today, utilizing a few amazing videos from YouTube. Your comments and questions add to the richness of the course.

The Great Migration 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Johnnie Williams

The Great Migration of African Americans lasted from the 1910s to the 1970s. It spread from the US South to change the literal complexion of cities and towns across the Northeast, Midwest and West. During this time, an estimated 6 million African Americans joined the exodus from a Jim Crow life. As New York's Harlem Renaissance clearly shows, African Americans revolutionized American dance, popular music and literature.

As this course will show, everything from jazz, blues, gospel music, state lotteries and even open heart surgery was created by the descendants of the Great Migration.

WEDNESDAY

Early Humans 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: David Froba

(This Great Courses series, produced in 2023, relies on the most up-to-date science, including DNA, and will give you insights that you probably did not have before.) You and the other 8 billion humans alive today are members of the only species that has survived in the genus Homo since its 2.5-million-year evolutionary journey began. Many other species we know of and perhaps dozens yet to be discovered have all come and gone. Who were these long-ago ancestors? Where and how did they live and die? And how are we even able to learn about these humans, some of whom became extinct millions of years ago? Professor Suzanne Pilar Birch shares her expertise and passion for discovery as she peels back the years to expose the emergence and lives of early humans in Early humans: Ice, Stone, and Survival.

Writing It Down 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Joyce Starkey

Do you like to write? Do you have family stories you want to share with your grandkids? Do you like to write poetry? If you answered yes to any of these questions, come join our writing group. Write anything you like at home and bring it to class when you are ready to share. We will enjoy what you wrote and offer friendly feedback. Don't worry, sharing is always voluntary! If you are not sure, come and listen to check it out. Come and join our writing com-

THURSDAY

Current Events 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: To Be Announced

Have you ever watched TV or read a newspaper article, opinion, or letter to the editor and really wanted to discuss or react to what you read? This class allows and encourages you to do just that. We discuss all kinds of issues and happenings, local, regional, statewide, national, worldwide, and occasionally universe-wide. You bring in the topic, introduce it, and we all discuss it with the help of our considerable collective expertise. We are very careful to respect the rights of all to express their opinions.

On Tyranny 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Anita Young

A historian of fascism offers a guide for surviving and resisting America's turn towards authoritarianism.

Timothy Snyder is one of the most celebrated historians of the Holocaust. In his books "Bloodlands" and "Black Earth", he has carefully dissected the events and values that enabled the rise of Hitler and Stalin and the execution of their catastrophic policies. With "Twenty Lessons", Snyder draws from the darkest hours of the twentieth century to provide hope for the twenty-first. As he writes, "Americans are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to fascism, Nazism and communism. Our one advantage is that we might learn from their experience."

Session A Potluck 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, February 13, 2025

Session A Book Club 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, February 13, 2025

Coordinator: Arleen Allsup

Session A Book:

"Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels", by Jon Meacham

We meet the last Thursday of each Session. We read a nonfiction book one month and a fiction book the next month. The book is suggested and selected by the group and will be moderated by the person that suggested the book title. Our group is open to everyone, even if you have not read or have previously read the book. Please feel free to join the group for any of the meetings. Keep Reading!

FRIDAY

MICL at The Movies 10:00 am - 12:00 pm *2/14 Lincoln Day No Class

Coordinator: Noel Russell

Start your day with a film that will carry you away to other times and other places. The movies coordinate with the classes in each session. Subtitles if/when available. The specific titles and details are announced each week in the Weekly Update. Discussion and lunch at a local restaurant are optional following the movie.

Session B: February 18, 2025 - March 21, 2025

MONDAY

MICL Meet Your Past 10:00 am - 12:00 pm *2/17 Washington Day No Class

Coordinator: Debi Jackson

Each week two MICL members share their unique life stories. As you listen you may connect to something in your own life experiences. These might be birthplace, school, employment, sports or family. It is these connections and the presenter's story that makes this five week series so enjoyable.

Triumph of Christianity 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm *2/17 Washington Day No Class

TUESDAY

Vietnam: The Ten Thousand Day War 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Dan Gorman

This documentary was produced in Canada in 1980. There are ten, 48 minute videos, covering 1945 to 1975. We will add to the discussion by hearing from a few veterans that were there, who will share their stories.

The Philosophy of Humor 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Bruce Clifton

Don't miss this course! Come see and experience a delightful array of insightful and yes-humorous lectures of Take My Course, Please! The Philosophy of Humor. Together, let's jump into Alice in Wonderland's rabbit hole and travel through the philosophical theories of humor. We'll make surprisingly profound stops on our journey to learn everything from blatantly obvious puns to sly twists of language. Rooted in the observations of thinkers like Aristotle and Sigmund Freud, this course will leave you with your mouth agape of how we as humans tick. You'll be amazed and will leave each class with a smile on your face. Mark this course on your calendar right now!

WEDNESDAY

Early Humans 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: David Froba

Writing It Down 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Joyce Starkey

THURSDAY

Current Events 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: To Be Announced

Great Decisions 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: David Froba

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions [Briefing Book](#), watching the [video series](#) and meeting in a [Discussion Group](#). It is an opportunity to understand more in depth the most critical global issues facing America by a combination of reading, watching a video, and discussion. All are welcome to watch the video and discuss, but if you buy and read the book you will get more out of the class.

If you have any questions about the class or would like to reserve a book, please contact David Froba via email: davidfroba@gmail.com or by phone/text at (209) 499-6406.

Session B Potluck 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, 3/20, 2025

Session B Book Club 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm , 3/20, 2025

Coordinator: Arleen Allsup Session B Book: To Be Announced

FRIDAY

Friday At The Movies 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Noel Russell

Session C: March 24, 2025 - April 25, 2025

MONDAY

Travels Around the World 10:00 am - 12:00 pm *3/31 Chavez Day No Class

Coordinator: To Be Announced

All Things Considered 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm *3/31 Chavez Day No Class

Coordinator: Bob Droual

In this course we will focus on topics of interest that lend themselves to a one or two hour class but not a full five-week session. Special emphasis will be on topics that are particularly timely at this point in history.

TUESDAY

Vietnam 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Dan Gorman

The Philosophy of Humor 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Bruce Clifton

WEDNESDAY

Wine Tasting 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Duane Nelson

In this course, Master of Wine Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan will show you how you can become a knowledgeable wine drinker just by training your senses to get the most out of every glass you drink. We begin by building your taster's tool kit, a set of skills you will need to taste and analyze wines most effectively. Then, we examine the process of making wine, all the way from the vineyard to the bottle. From there, we will approach the abundance and variety of the wine world.

Writing It Down 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Joyce Starkey

THURSDAY

Current Events 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: To Be Announced

Great Decisions 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: David Froba

Session C Potluck No Potluck - Annual Luncheon To Be Announced

Session C Book Club 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm , 2025

Coordinator: Arleen Allsup Session C Book: To Be Announced

FRIDAY

Friday At The Movies 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Noel Russell





Visit our Website: micl-online.org

Here you will find current publications, including the MICL Catalog, the MICLetter, the Weekly Update, the Birthday Luncheon Flyer, along with pictures, and other information about MICL and MICL events.

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