Two lectures back by popular demand!

Not included in our Spring Class Schedule!

Connections Program Room, Tempe Public Library, 3500 S Rural Rd, Tempe 85282

The Ratification Debate

Instructor: Dr. Brian Blanchard
When: Monday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lecture: The United States Constitution may seem legalistic and dispassionate in its language, but it sparked heated debate from the moment it was introduced. The debate over ratification of the Constitution was the first “great debate” in American politics. In this lecture, we will consider the special circumstances in which the Constitution was drafted in order to better understand why the Framers felt the need to replace the Articles of Confederation. We will then examine the various arguments made in favor of and against ratification of the new Constitution. You will notice that many of the divisive issues in the debate – such as presidential authority, states’ rights, representation, and the role of the military – are still being debated today.

Instructor: Brian Blanchard, Ph.D, received his doctorate in the School of Politics and Global Studies at ASU where he has studied the history of political thought in the U.S. Dr. Blanchard teaches a variety of courses on the history of political philosophy from ancient Greece to modern America.

50 Years as a Forensic Anthropologist

Instructor: Dr. Charles Merbs
When: Tuesday, May 12, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Lecture: Anthropologists have long contributed to forensic sciences, especially in the identification of human skeletons, their work evolving from casual observations to the detailed professional analyses of today. Dr. Merbs’ work began in 1958 while still a senior at the University of Wisconsin, aiding his professor in the infamous Ed Gein Case, inspiration for “Psycho” and “Silence of the Lambs”. During the 60's and 70s he worked at the University of Chicago and moved to Arizona in 1973 to begin working with the Maricopa County Medical Examiner. Although retired in 2004, he continues to assist the ME, especially on cold cases. Dr. Merbs will pull from his case files to illustrate the application of anthropology to an understanding of human skeletal remains within the context of the law.

Instructor: Charles Merbs, Ph.D, received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, majoring in anthropology and medical genetics. His specialty is the human skeleton in bioarchaeological and forensic contexts, and as a symbolic image. Most of his field research has focused on the Canadian Arctic, but he worked also in the American Southwest, Alaska and Peru. He is especially interested in using skeletal changes to reconstruct behavioral patterns.

Each lecture only $10 if you are a current OLLI member registered for Spring.
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