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Modesto Institute for Continued Learning

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*Fall  
2023  
Catalog*

*Sessions A, B & C*

*August 28 -*

*December 15, 2023*



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

Register In-Person: **August 9, 9:00 am - 11:30 am**

Over the phone: (209) 575-6063

Online: [mjc4life.org](http://mjc4life.org), search MICL

Link on our Website: [micl-online.org](http://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: August 28, 2022 - September 29, 2023**

#### **MONDAY**

Travels Around the World 10:00 am - 12:00 pm \*Sept. 4 Labor Day No Class

Coordinator: Jerry Jackman

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!

The Art of the Documentary 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm \*Sept. 4 Labor Day No Class

Coordinator: Betty Stewart

An often-overlooked art form, documentaries, cover a wide range of subjects - people, strange events and places and things you would normally never learn about. Join us for a diverse collection of documentaries, followed by discussion.

## TUESDAY

The Fall and Rise of China 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Jerry Jackman

China is a world in transition, a civilization represented by a nation state. In area, China is half the size of Russia, but its population is 1.45 billion compared to that of Russia at 145 million. With the Chinese Communist Party's aggressive counterintelligence and espionage actions against the US, are they the biggest threat to our democracy? On the heels of our Russia course, join us in this comprehensive look at China to decide for yourself.

Social Zoom 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Diana Sicard

If you're missing your friends during these days of social distancing, consider joining our MICL Social Zoom. It's fun, and it will lift your spirits more than you might imagine. Time spent talking to, and hanging out with people will lift your mood! Please join us!

## WEDNESDAY

Law School for Everyone/Criminal Law 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: MICL Legal Team

Law school can be mysterious, boring, and notoriously difficult. But this course will strip away all that and give you an understandable, interesting, and even captivating knowledge of the basics of our legal system. You'll never look at the news the same again. This will be the last session in a four part series and will focus on criminal law.

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 community of writers and listeners.

## THURSDAY

Current Events 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Dorothy Winke

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.

Rome in Movies 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Duane Nelson

Our ideas of Ancient Rome are based on portrayals from Hollywood Movies. Emperors, Roman Armies, Slaves, Gladiators, Christianity, Downfall of Rome, Evolution into modern Western world. In this 4 - week course, we take a look at 8 most famous/memorable movies about Roman Antiquity. A historian of ancient Rome discusses each of the 8 movies, and we comment. History or Fiction?

Potluck and Book Club Last Thursday of each session

Session A Potluck 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, September 28, 2023

Session A Book Club 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, September 28, 2023

Coordinator: Carol Sullivan

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!

Session A book: "The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race", by Walter Isaacson

## FRIDAY

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

Coordinator: Noel Russell

Start your weekend relaxation with a film that will carry you away to other times and other places. Discussion encouraged but not required. The specific film each week will be announced in the group email weekly update.

**Session B: October 2, 2023 - November 3, 2023**

## MONDAY

Travels Around the World 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Jerry Jackman

Propaganda 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Bruce Clifton

Come and learn about propaganda and its various forms of strategies that manipulate the human mind. By the end of this course, we will be equipped with valuable knowledge and skills that will enable us to spot propaganda. Success in our modern world requires our ability to navigate through these obstacles. Come and have fun with your MICL friends as we learn, discuss, and grapple with the issues of misinformation we face in our everyday lives.

## TUESDAY

The Fall and Rise of China 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Bob Droual

Social Zoom 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Diana Sicard

## WEDNESDAY

All Things Considered 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: David Froba

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.

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

Coordinator: Joyce Starkey

## THURSDAY

Current Events 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coordinator: Duane Nelson

Everyday Engineering: The Marvels of Daily Life 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Coordinator: Ed Ponganis

We go though life largely unaware of how our complicated technological society works because few of us has ever taken a class on engineering. This is your chance to become aware of some of the marvelous things that we interact with daily and are still clueless about. We will focus on electricity, how it is generated and used. What are the characteristics of the different types of fossil fuels used and why they are selected? What are the fundamental blocks of a power plant facility? How are fossil fuels, nuclear, wind, and solar used to generate power and what are their trade offs? How is electricity transmitted from the power source to your house? How does your refrigerator, air conditioner, heater, and telephone system work?

Session B Potluck 11:30 am - 1:00 pm November 2, 2023

Session B book Club 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm November 2, 2023

Coordinator: Carol Sullivan

Session B Book: Not yet selected

## FRIDAY

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

Coordinator: Noel Russell

**Session C: November 6, 2023 - December 15, 2023**

## MONDAY

Travels Around the World 10:00 am - 12:00 pm \*11/20 Thanksgiv'g No Class

Coordinator: Jerry Jackman

Birding 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm \*11/20 Thanksgiving No Class

Coordinator: David Froba

Why bird in the middle of the winter? Because there are many more birds that migrate into our area in the winter than in any other season. We will focus on bird identification, and more specifically, on identification of birds in our local area. In each class we will study about 10 different species of birds. Then, on the weekend following each class, we will go out to a nearby natural area and try to find these ten species. We will also find bonus birds that we haven't studied and identify them in the field. David Sibley's "Field Guide to Birds of Western North America" is recommended but not required. It would also be good to watch the video "Wings Over Our Two Counties" on Netflix before the class.

## TUESDAY

The Fall and Rise of China 10:00 a.m - 12:00 pm \*11/21 Thanksgiving No Class

Coordinator: Betty Stewart

Social Zoom 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm \*11/21 Thanksgiving No Class

Coordinator: Diana Sicard

## WEDNESDAY

Biographies of Artists 10:00 am - 12:00 pm \*11/22 Thanksgiving No Class

Coordinator: Roger Jackson

As long as we humans have been able to use our hands, we have been creating art. From early cave paintings to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, human artistic expression can tell us a lot about the lives of the people who create it.

Please join our group in exploring the biographies of various artists and their life's work.

Writing It Down 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm \*11/22 Thanksgiving No Class

Coordinator: Joyce Starkey

## THURSDAY

Current Events 10:00 a.m - 12:00 pm \*11/23 Thanksgiving No Class

Coordinator: David Froba

MICLites Discuss Books 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm \*11/23 Thanksgiving No Class

Coordinator: Carol Sullivan

I know we have lots of readers in this group. We will be discussing

books of all genres from many different authors. Some books will be fiction, some non-fiction. How many banned books have you read? Have you started reading them in your own personal protest to the ban? Join us.

Session C Potluck 11:30 a.m - 1:00 pm December 14, 2023

Session C Book Club 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm December 14, 2023

Coordinator: Carol Sullivan

Session C book: Not yet selected

## FRIDAY

Friday At The Movies 10:00 a.m - 12:00 pm \*11/10 Veterans Day No Class

Coordinator: Noel Russell \*11/24 Thanksgiving No Class

To request a copy of this catalog contact:

[MJCMICL@hotmail.com](mailto:MJCMICL@hotmail.com)

We will be happy to send you a copy

Visit our Website: [micl-online.org](http://micl-online.org) where you will find this catalog, the MICLetter, the Weekly Update, Field Trip information, the Birthday Luncheon Flyer, along with pictures, and other information about MICL.



As diverse as the flowers in this vase, we come together at MICL, with diversity of people and opinions, welcoming all, judging none. As “Life Long Learners” we strive to expand our knowledge, and our understanding.

### 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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