



## *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**

**2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Bruce Clifton  
 President Elect Johnnie Williams  
 Secretary Linda Lagacy  
 Treasurer Dorothy Ford  
 Curriculum Bob Droual  
 Membership Roger Jackson  
 Field Trips Dan Gorman  
 Facilities Noel Russell  
 Communications Debi Jackson  
 Hospitality Maureen Fuertes  
 Publicity Betty Stewart

Annette Olsen Immediate Past President

Vicki Vander Veen MJC Comm. Ed. Specialist

MJC Community Lifelong Learning (209) 575-6063

MJC West Campus, El Capitan Bldg.  
 2201 Blue Gum Avenue  
 Modesto, CA 95358

**Odessa Johnson**  
**George Pettygrove, 1920 - 2014** **Founders**



**Join us on Facebook: Search MICL**



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](http://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.

**Register In-Person: January 8, 9:00 am - 11:30 am**

**Over the phone: (209) 575-6063      Cost: \$60.00**

**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: 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.

## **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**

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

## 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**