



The MICL Letter

September 2025

Fall Session B

A Message from our MICL President - Johnnie Williams



Welcome to Fall Session B

Theme: "Better Together, Because Every Piece Matters"

"Better Together, Because Every Piece Matters."

This isn't just our theme—it's our truth. As we begin Fall Session B, let's reflect on what makes this MICL community so special.

Each of us brings a unique story, a wealth of experience, and a spark of curiosity that enriches our shared journey. Like pieces of a puzzle, we fit together—not by being the same, but by honoring our differences and learning from one another. In this space, your voice matters. Your presence uplifts. Your growth inspires.

We listen. We learn. We sometimes agree to disagree (MICLites have no problem sharing their opinions—LOL!). But through it all, we create more than just a classroom—we build friendships, foster connections, offer encouragement, and discover purpose. I'm truly grateful to be on this journey with each of you.

Fall Session A Highlights

Attendance this past session exceeded all expectations! Your enthusiasm and commitment to lifelong learning continue to inspire.

A heartfelt thank-you to Bob Droul, Curriculum Chairman, and the entire curriculum committee for their outstanding work. Their thoughtful selections sparked meaningful conversations, new friendships, and a deeper love of learning. Their dedication to quality programming has elevated our experience in every way.

Looking Ahead to Fall Session B

As we prepare for the next round of classes, let's keep the momentum going. Continue participating, and help spread the word throughout your communities, families, and friends.

MICL is a true jewel of learning—a place where curiosity is celebrated and connection is cultivated. So don't keep it a secret—bring a friend, share the joy, and let's keep building a space where every piece of the puzzle truly matters because we are **BETTER TOGETHER**.

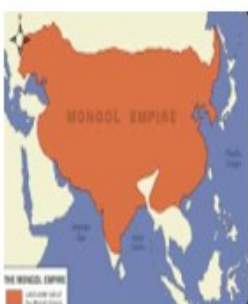




Dan Gorman

FIELD TRIPS:
Haggin Museum, 10/3
Million \$ Quartette Christmas, 11/15
See Attached Flyers for Details

SESSION B Classes:
September 29 thru
October 31, 2025

Fall 2025 Session B					
September 29 – October 31, 2025					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 am to NOON	 Getting To Know You	 The Mongol Empire	 The History of Christian Nationalism & How We Move Forward	 Current Events	 MICL at The Movies
1 pm to 3 pm	 Organic Chemistry	 Your Deceptive Mind	 Writing it Down!	 London in the 1960's/ The Triumph of The Beatles	

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Johnnie Williams
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Secretary	Linda Lagace
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Communications	Debi Jackson
Facilities	Noel Russel
Membership	Roger Jackson
Publicity	Betty Stewart
Hospitality	Maureen Fuertes
Field Trips	Dan Gorman

CLASSES ARE HELD

IN THE EL CAPITAN CENTER BUILDING
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
DURING FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS
Summer Session No Mondays or Fridays

Bruce Clifton	Immediate Past President
Suad Alsamiri	MJC Comm. Ed. Specialist
MJC Lifelong Learning	(209) 575-6063
MJC West Campus, El Capitan Bldg.	2201 Blue Gum Ave.
	Modesto, CA
George Pettygrove, 1920-2014	Founders
Odessa Johnson	

MONDAY

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Debi Jackson



GETTING TO KNOW YOU (MICL MEET YOUR PAST): 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.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Scott Griffin

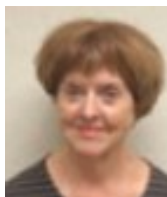


AN OVERVIEW OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY: Scott has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from UCLA and extensive experience in industry. However, the lecture series is not intended to make organic chemists of everyone, but rather to present essential concepts and then to focus on applications of organic compounds in our daily lives. A few examples are organic compounds in living systems, polymers and plastics, foods, flavors, and aromas, carbohydrates and proteins, and natural products. Scott will utilize selected lectures from two Great Courses series: "Foundations of Organic Chemistry," by Prof. Ron Davis Jr., Georgetown University, and "Cooking Better with Science," by Sean Kahlenberg, Asst. Prof. and Ted Russin, Dean, Culinary Science and Nutrition, Hyde Park, NY.

TUESDAY

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Betty Stewart



THE MONGOL EMPIRE: The Mongol Empire may not qualify as a Civilization, yet it had an impact on the Russian, Chinese, and Indian Civilizations that MICL has already studied. Indeed, the Mongol Empire became the largest the world had ever seen -- nearly twice as extensive as the Roman Empire! Join us as we unravel this surprising Empire that burst across the 13th century but is scarcely recognized in our modern world.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Bob Droual



YOUR DECEPTIVE MIND: You may know what you know, but do you really know what you know, or just think that you know. Epistemology is a field of philosophy concerned with knowing, how we know what we know and what counts as knowledge. Cognitive science and neuroscience reveal the current psychology of knowledge. This course will delve into the science of how we acquire and process knowledge. More importantly it will reveal how these processes, as marvelous as they are, often lead to inaccurate perceptions and conclusions, or simply put, deceive. However, awareness of how our mind sometimes deceives, enables us to sharpen our critical thinking skills.

W E D N E S D A Y

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Bruce Clifton



WHITE NATIONALISM AND HOW WE MOVE FORWARD: For many Americans, white Christian nationalism seemed to explode out of nowhere. Many are asking questions and want to know what it is, where it came from, why it is here today, and how we respond to it. Join us as we embark on an important and fascinating historical journey, one that most people have no idea exists. We'll meet influential leaders, find notable locations, and observe consequential events, all in an effort to learn about a movement that has always been intertwined, but not always recognized, in our country. Also, think of this as a religious literacy course where we'll learn about lesser known church denominations, beliefs, and religious movements. Ultimately, this course is meant to be a productive and positive one that not only equips us with knowledge, but also presents us with hope for the future. Throughout, we'll hear from secular scholars as well as many Christian ones who work tirelessly to defend our democracy. At the end, we'll explore the power of the prophetic voice in the Black Church. Join this opportunity to better understand and meet the challenge of our times.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Joyce Starkey



WRITING IT DOWN: If you like to write, bring anything you've written to share with the group. It can be memoirs, poetry, non-fiction, fiction, an editorial, a travel piece, etc. We will enjoy hearing it and discussing it.

If you like to read, when you come across something you feel to be especially good - like a descriptive phrase, or how the book was started - bring it in to share. You can also bring a favorite poem or share something from a favorite author. If what you want to share is in a printed format, taking a photo of it with your phone is a quick and easy way to capture it.

T H U R S D A Y

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Dorothy Winke



CURRENT EVENTS: 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? "*Current Events*" is just the class for you. We discuss all kinds of issues and happenings from your neighborhood, local, regional, state, national, and world news. You bring in the topic, introduce it, and we all discuss it with the help of our collective expertise.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Bob Droual



LONDON IN THE 60'S/THE TRIUMPH OF THE BEATLES: Are you ready for some nostalgia? Who among us doesn't have memories of the Beatles! Whether you loved, hated or were indifferent you had to have noticed them. This course will begin with a scholarly examination of the rise of the Beatles from their ordinary working-class background in Liverpool to their meteoric rise to worldwide fandom. The 12 lectures of the initial course will then be followed by your personal reminiscences and a potpourri of Beatlemania and perhaps some side-trips to some of the other cultural phenomena of the 60's including the Beach Boys, Dylan and the Stones.

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Coordinator:
Arlene Allsup

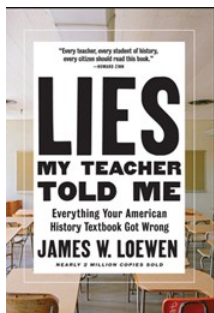


BOOK CLUB: We meet the last Thursday of each Session. We read a nonfiction book one month and a fiction book the next month. The book is suggested and selected by the group and will be moderated by the person that suggested the book title. Our group is open to everyone, even if you have not read or have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

October 30, 2025

“Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong”, by James W. Loewen

****Tenth Anniversary Edition****



What started out as a survey of the twelve leading American history textbooks has ended up being what the *San Francisco Chronicle* calls “an extremely convincing plea for truth in education.” In *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, James W. Loewen brings history alive in all its complexity and ambiguity. Beginning with pre-Columbian history and ranging over characters and events as diverse as Reconstruction, Helen Keller, the first Thanksgiving, and the My Lai massacre, Loewen offers an eye-opening critique of existing textbooks, and a wonderful retelling of American history as it should—and could—be taught to American students.

***A completely revised edition of James W. Loewen’s classic retelling of American history, based on six new textbooks and including an all-new chapter on the recent past. Features a new introduction by the author.**

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Coordinator:
Noel Russell



FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES: Start your weekend with a film, related to our current classes, that will carry you away to other times and places. After the movie, those who wish gather at a local eatery for lunch and discussion. The movie details are posted in the Weekly Update on the prior Friday.

October 3: “Eight Days a Week”, 106 minutes

October 10: “The Brain”, 90 minutes

October 17: “Brain Fitness”, 60 minutes

October 24: “The Big Hit”, 91 minutes

October 31: “The Dead Girl”, 85 minutes

The MICL Lunch Hangout

Tip: The MJC Food Court has deli sandwiches, salads, snacks, drinks, and more! It's just a short walk away!

Are you waiting for the afternoon class to start? Feel free to bring a lunch, sit at a "community table" at MICL, and enjoy eating and socializing with class members!

NOON TO 1:00 PM



EVENT SCHEDULE

Session B Starts	September 29, 2025		
Curriculum Committee	1st Tuesday	October 7, 2025	3:45 pm
Board Meeting	2nd Tuesday	October 14, 2025	3:45 pm
Birthday Luncheon	3rd Friday	October 17, 2025	1:00 pm
Potluck	Last Thursday	October 30, 2025	11:30 am
Book Club	Last Thursday	October 30, 2025	1:00 pm
Session B Ends	October 31, 2025		

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MICL FIELDTRIP

to the

Haggin Museum

1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton, CA

Friday, October 3rd 1:00

p.m.

General Tour (1 Hour) w/docent

\$5.00 fee at the door

After tour – browse at your leisure

(Carpooling is on your own)

TEXT: Ed Padilla (coordinator) to let him know you will be attending

NO LATER THAN September 26th

209-531-8074

The Haggin Museum is an art museum and local history museum in Stockton, located in the city's Victory Park. The museum opened in 1931. Its art collection includes works by European painters Jean Béraud, Rosa Bonheur, William-Adolphe Bouguereau, ~~Jean-Léon~~ Gérôme, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, landscapes by French artists of the Barbizon school, and sculptures by René de Saint-Marceaux, Alfred Barye, and Auguste Rodin.

The museum also features a number of works by Hudson River School and California landscape painters, including the largest collection of Albert Bierstadt works in the region. In 2017, it dedicated a gallery to display its collection of original artworks by J. C. Leyendecker; it is the largest public collection in the United States, with much of it donated by the artist's sister. **The Haggin Museum is 35 miles North of Modesto and should take 45 minutes to drive there.**

MICL FIELD TRIP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th
2:00 P.M.



SEATS ARE \$30 EACH

SIERRA REP Theatre, 13891 MONO WAY SONORA CA. 95310

Deadline to pay: October 20 th

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MICL

MAIL CHECK TO: DAN GORMAN

2215 EL CAPITAN

TURLOCK, CA. 95380

Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley come together again to celebrate the holidays in a knockout Holiday musical experience! Please join us!

NOTE: Dinner at Standard Pour – 4:30 p.m.

CALL Dan Gorman if you want to be included in the dinner reservations. 209-404-3799