

INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT FALL 2025

Course Listing
& Schedule

September 22 -
November 14

Semester Preview

September 17, 2025



Register Today!
Call 1-800-825-5862, Ext. 4862
or (256) 765-4862
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Center for Learning &
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The Institute for Learning in Retirement

Fall 2025 Schedule

September 22 – November 14, 2025 • Florence First United Methodist Church

MONDAYS

9:00 - 10:00 am	Byways of Language & Literature • Led by Dennis Balch Science In Our Everyday Lives • Led by William Cale
10:30 - 11:40 am	ILR Voices • Led by Susan Farris America on the World Stage (Part 2) • Led by David Daniel
12:15 - 1:25 pm	Readers' Choice • Led by Dennis Balch

WEDNESDAYS

9:00 - 10:00 am	FYI... • Led by Susan Farris Hodgepodge • Led by Will Grimmitt
10:30 - 11:40 am	How Railroads Transformed The World (The Great Courses) • Led by Karen Kielbasinski & Charles Wickwire Life on the Tennessee River at the Sholas • Led by Charles Wickwire Two Paradigm Shifts in Science • Led by Tom Osborne
12:15 - 1:25 pm	The Great Books • Led by Nancy Belue

FRIDAYS

9:00 - 10:00 am	The Heroes and Villains of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and Fukushima • Led by Rob Martin All Over the Map • Led by Susan Daniel Great American Music • Led by Jacquie Osborne
10:30 - 11:40 am	Dr. Krodel's Rules: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy • Led by Ron Helgemo The View From My Window • Led by Anita Cobb
12:15 - 1:25 pm	Interfaith Book Discussion Group • Led by Jacquie Osborne

1:00 pm **Around Town** (September 24 & October 8) • Led by April Sturtevant & Kaye Perkins

OFFICERS

President: Susan Farris
Vice-President: Charles Wickwire

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Course Leader Facilitators: Marian Morris, Charles Wickwire,
Linda Austin, David Currott
Travel: April Sturtevant, Kaye Perkins
Social: Chris Johnson
Sunshine: Elizabeth Stoy
Technology: Richard Hudiburg, Rob Martin, Sherry Crosslin,
Steve Merry, Ken Wolf, Dennis Balch
Time: Kay Durrett, Marian Morris, Ed Byler

COUNCIL

Three Year Term: Dennis Balch, Ed Byler,
Lucy Crosby, Shelaine Williams

Two Year Term: Donna Albright, Susan Daniel,
Karen Kielbasinski,
Kaye Perkins

One Year Term: Max Gee, Will Grimmitt,
Steve Merry, Phyllis Romine



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2025-2026
LEADERSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Byways of Language and Literature

Topics that inform, entertain and delight! Carbon, the gregarious element; fungi, architects of our biosphere; Leigh Daniel on the English language; what you probably didn't know about financial redlining policies.

Science In Our Everyday Lives

This continuing series brings both historical and contemporary topics into focus for our modern lives. Included this fall will be lectures on earth systems, our changing climate, a "safari" to a far away land, and we'll meet an influential and largely unknown historical figure whose work resonates to this day.

ILR Voices

Join ILR members David Curott, Phyllis Shoemaker, Libby Jordan, and Richard Hudiburg as they share their interests and/or experiences.

America On The World Stage (Part 2)

Immigration is a volatile headline; generalizations and stereotypes abound. We will look at famous American Immigrants who made major contributions to our Country and played on the World Stage.

Readers' Choice

A shared inquiry reading group. Readings are confirmed by the group at the end of preceding semesters and may include poetry, long or short fiction, or nonfiction.

FYI...

FYI...explore UNA-sponsored programs, understand the art of fact-checking, and more.

Hodgepodge

Presentations include AMSTI, Spiritual Ups and Downs, Wills and Estates, and English poet, William Blake.

The Great Courses: How Railroads Transformed the World

A study of the history of railroads and their effect on cultures, politics, economics, even psychology, with introductory highlights and concluding comments.

Life on the Tennessee River at the Shoals

Post Civil War Claims Commission

Two Paradigm Shifts in Science

Fridtjof Nansen: Scientist, Explorer & Statesman;
Marie Tharp and the Revolution in Geology

The Great Books

The Books: THE DAY OF THE LOCUST and THE BEST SHORT STORIES (2024) – The O. Henry Prize Winners, Amor Towles, editor. Opinions, discussion, and shared inquiry on questions prepared by leaders.

The Heroes and Villains of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and Fukushima

Real stories of the three most destructive and devastating radiation accidents and those who risked life and limb and how we can make nuclear power plants safer

All Over the Map

You & your hearing: Information from an audiologist. Santa Helena: Napoleon's final resting place

Great American Music

Great Courses program on the history and development of American music

Dr. Krodel's Rules: The Assassination of John F Kennedy

The recent release of several thousand pages of Kennedy assassination records has renewed the debate over responsibility for his death. How to make sense of it all.

The View from My Window

Perspectives on topics of black history and culture, with emphasis on local and regional subjects: African-American community of North Florence, African-American writers, musicians, artists of the Shoals.

Interfaith Book Discussion Group

A study of How God Works: The Science Behind the Benefits of Religion, by David DeSteno

Around Town • September 24 & October 8

Take an informative tour of UNA's Innovation Center on College Street with the Director, Mitch Hamm. Step back in time and explore the historic Tuscumbia Railroad Depot.

ILR HAS A NEW HOME!

We're now meeting at Florence First United Methodist Church, located at 415 North Seminary Street in Florence.

Parking Info: You can park across Seminary Street in the lot next to the University Health Services building.

Enter the church at the Seminary Street entrance, where it says "Church Offices."

For those needing a covered, handicap-accessible entrance, pull in off Tuscaloosa Street and exit on Hermitage Drive.

THE INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SEMESTER PREVIEW

Wednesday, September 17, at 11:00 a.m., at Florence First United Methodist Church, 415 North Seminary Street, Florence, AL

WHAT IS THE INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT (ILR)?

The ILR is a member led group that determines all activities from course planning to social events. Most discussion groups are led by members. The ILR is an organization of active mature men and women who seek continued intellectual and social stimulation. Regardless of your educational background or work experience, we invite you to try us out without committing to a membership! There are no tests, grades, or prerequisites!

THE INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT IS FOR:

Anyone interested in making new friends and growing & stimulating their mind in an educational environment!

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO BEING AN ILR MEMBER?

For only \$80 a semester, joining ILR entitles you to:

- Attend any or all of the courses you would like that are listed in this brochure
- Social Events
- Trips (extra cost may be associated)
- ILR Members receive a 10% discount on UNA Continuing Education Courses.

Simply fill out the registration form located below and mail with your check. Class size is limited in some cases, so register early! If you are interested in attending a regular credit course, there is a Senior Scholar program which is administered through the UNA Office of Admissions (256-765-4608).



FAST & EASY REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is requested so we can be prepared for your attendance.



BY PHONE

Our registration office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We accept Discover, MasterCard and Visa. **Call (256)765-4862 or 1(800)-825-5862, ext. 4862.**



IN PERSON

During our office hours, come by our office in the UNA Office of Regional Engagement, 541 West College Street, Florence, AL. Park at the back of the building and enter through the purple awning. Please have correct change.



ONLINE

www.una.edu/professionaldevelopment
Select Personal Enrichment, and Institute for Learning In Retirement.

EMAIL

Scan and email form to Meghan Fike, mmfike@una.edu



MAIL

Complete the attached registration form and mail with your check or credit card information (don't mail cash) to Center for Learning & Professional Development, UNA Box 5036, University of North Alabama, Florence, Alabama 35632-0001.

Registration Form

If registering more than one person, please list additional names and information on an attached sheet or duplicate this form.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

Birthday (Optional) _____ Text Opt in ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please Register me for: ☐ Fall Term 2025, \$80

Payment Method:

Check Enclosed (payable to UNA) Please include course name on lower left side of check.

☐ Purchase Order

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Please make as many copies of this form as you need.